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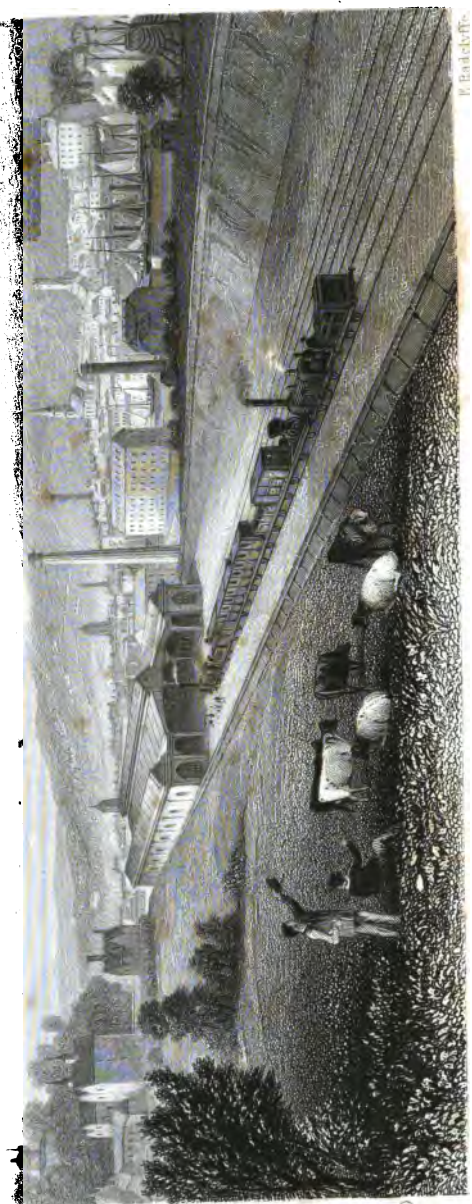


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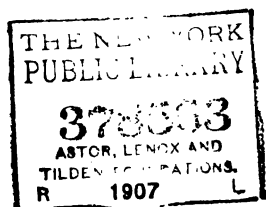


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HISTORY OF BROOKLYN,
WITH ITS ENVIRONS
AND A MEMOIR OF THE
DUBLIN & BROOKLYN RAILWAY.
BY JOHN DALTON, ESQ. BARRISTER AT LAW.





THE
HISTORY OF DROGHEDA,
WITH ITS ENVIRONS;
AND
AN INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR
OF THE
DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA RAILWAY.

BY
JOHN D'ALTON, Esq.,
BARRISTER AT LAW,
AUTHOR OF THE "ESSAY ON THE ANCIENT HISTORY, ETC. OF IRELAND,"
"HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN," "MEMOIRS OF THE
ARCHBISHOPS OF DUBLIN," ETC. ETC. ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

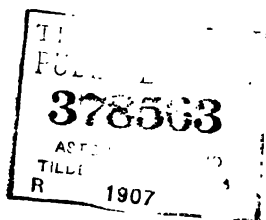
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PREFACE.

IN May, 1840, the Corporation of Drogheda passed their resolution, that a sum of 200 guineas should be granted to me, towards defraying the expense of compiling and publishing a full and ample History, Civil, Ecclesiastical, and Corporate, of their ancient town; and it was further, on that occasion, resolved, that if I agreed, I should have access to their archives, and every facility in the progress of my inquiries: I was happy to respond to this truly national desire, and accordingly accepted the trust, while it was not then contemplated that the work should exceed one volume of four or five hundred pages, or be embellished with either views or maps; but Sir William Somerville, the representative of the town in Parliament, considering the project calculated to advance the honour and interest of the Corporation and inhabitants, appropriated £25 towards maps or other embellishments.

Professional avocations, even with the extensive facilities of my own manuscript collections, retarded the completion of the work, which in truth I felt,

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in justice to the subject, should be extended beyond the original limitation. At length, in March, 1842, anxious to give to it more general interest and attraction, I proposed to the Directors of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway, that I would compile the necessary Memoir of their line, and of all the localities through which it passes, as an apt introduction to my History, on their contributing certain views for the illustration of both. They accordingly then passed a resolution, that I should receive for this work, as many impressions of the twenty views which appear herein, as I would print copies of the letter-press.

These noble efforts of public and private co-operation may be considered, as having nearly met all the expenses of publishing, yet I certainly did expect, that, in reference to the utility of such a work, the devotion of laboriously and expensively acquired compilations to its use, the continued disbursements on local inquiries, and on searches of official record, I might have nearly 1000 subscribers (no subscriptions being ever received by me until delivery of the books), and in that event, I designed to have given notes of authorities, with yet more embellishments, and consequently extended the work, but on circulating my Prospectus, I felt compelled, in prudence, to limit the edition to 500, and of these 500, only half are at this moment engaged, but I trust I shall be favoured with early applications for the remainder.

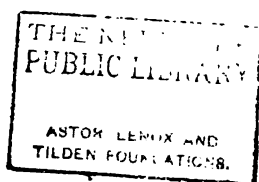
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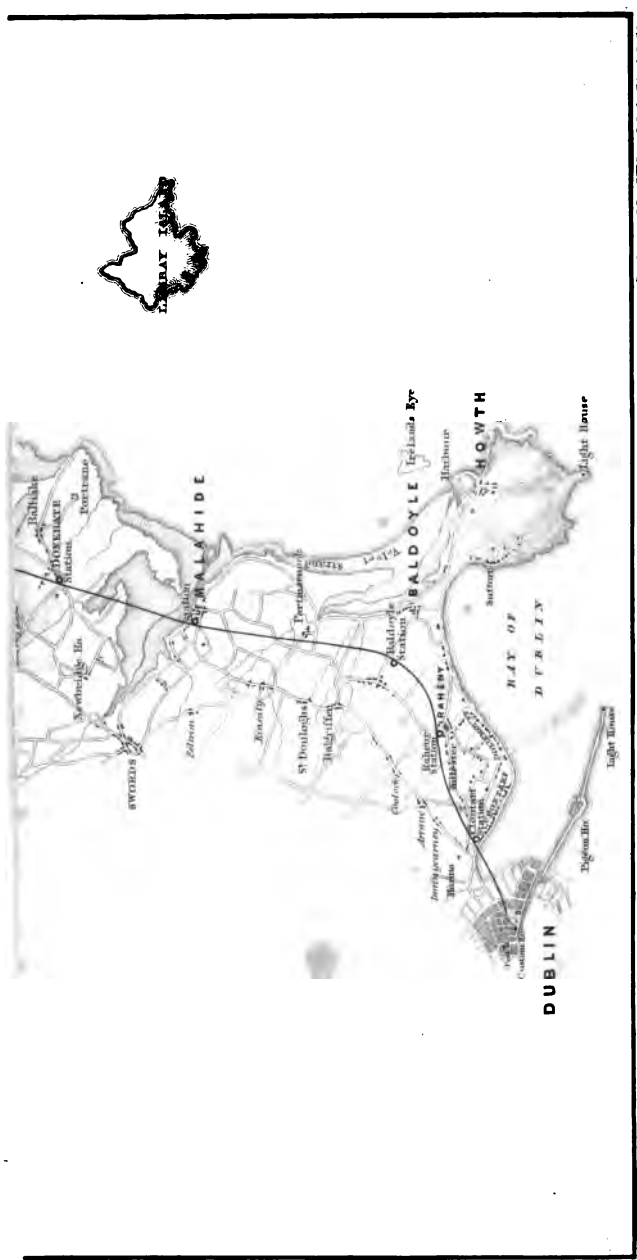
ter, I instituted all necessary local inquiries, and, in its progress through the press, distributed duplicate proofs for select revision, but I regret to say, information was scantily afforded, or too long delayed, to be effective; only three or four unimportant local notices were objected to, and at a stage of the work when I thought it the better part, to leave them to the reader's discernment to discover, and his indulgence to forgive; I must not, however, conclude, without acknowledging my individual obligations also, to the present Corporation, for the readiness with which they adopted the views of their predecessors, and the continued access they afforded, particularly to the original Map of Drogheda in 1657. To Mr. Merrall, C. E., I am indebted for the beautiful reduction of that map hereinafter engraved, and for other services. From Mr. Brodigan of Pilton House, I have derived more assistance than authors usually receive, or willingly avow; his suggestions were valuable and frequent, for the arrangement and scope of the volumes, and his varied information has been most serviceably embodied in the work. Mr. Carty, the late Mayor of Drogheda, with his peculiar facilities and intelligence, was indefatigable in aiding me by well-directed inquiries, and prompt communications; while, in the progress of the Railway Memoir, I have profited by the intelligence and judgment of Doctor Mac Neill and Mr. Eckersley.

JOHN D'ALTON.

48, *Summer-Hill, Dublin.*

SINCE the following pages were printed, a communication has been made, relative to Erasmus Smith's Grammar School in Drogheda, which, although properly referrible to an early section of the History, yet seems to embody too many interesting associations with the town, to be withheld. From this seminary, it appears, have gone forth a great majority of the men who distinguished themselves in the Irish House of Commons, who have risen to rank and eminence in their several professions, and reflected the honour and credit of their education on the passing events of the last half century in Ireland. Of these may be enumerated, the Right Hon. John Foster, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, afterwards Baron Oriel; Doctor Stopford, the present Bishop of Meath; the late Doctor Bourke, last Bishop of Waterford, before the See merged in that of Cashel; his brothers, the present Lord Mayo, and the present Dean of Ossory; the Very Reverend Peter Brown, late Dean of Ferns; the late Lords Tyrawley and Farnham; Lord Gosport; the late Judges Jebb and Radcliffe, and Serjeant Ball; General Taylor; General Sir William Henry Pringle, K. C. B.; General Sir Thomas Browne, lately deceased; Meade Ogle; John Beattie West, lately deceased; Mr. Townley Balfour, of Townley Hall; various members of the families of Wynne of Sligo, Coddington of Oldbridge, Filgate of Lisrenny, &c.; while it is also said, that Henry Flood, Henry Grattan, and Edmund (Shakspeare) Malone were (at least for a time), alumni of this establishment. Having thus recurred to it, the duty may be permitted of adding to the notice, *post*, vol. i., p. 57, that, besides the salaries there mentioned, the Board, established for its government, allow another £100, late currency, for a second master, who has also a suitable residence within the precincts; while four additional tutors in the sciences and modern languages, complete a course of liberal education, that, under its present management, seems likely to recal its ancient reputation.





Printed in Dublin by J. Browne & Co. 1840

INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR

OF THE

DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA RAILWAY.

THE stupendous power of steam has, within a very few years, annihilated all previous calculations of time and space. The gigantic impulse, with which it at once outstripped all ordinary conveyances; its speed, its certainty, its security, its safety, have, with a magical influence, promoted all the relations of social intercourse; commerce, and trade, manufactures and agriculture, the arts and sciences, have been alike affected by this wondrous movement. It has received and wafted together, for instantaneous appropriation, the products of the remotest parts of the globe, extended the sphere of human competition and incentive, and approximated the ties of kindred and friendship, fertilizing (as Sir Robert Peel happily expressed himself) the intellectual, no less than the moral waste. On the sea, on the lake, on the river, it gives breath, and heat, and motion;

the leviathan of its inspiration "walks the waters like a thing of life," and, through every clime it visits, diffuses knowledge, comfort, industry, and happiness; but, in the perils and uncertainties of the ocean, its supremacy is too often calamitously contested; the fog-bank, the rock-reef, the tempest, the iceberg, have arrested it in the pride of its march, and many

a brave vessel,

Who had, no doubt, some noble creatures in her,
Dashed all to pieces.

It is on the firm face of the earth, on the iron-bound railway, that steam asserts its undisputed immunities and privileges, its attributes of speed, regularity, and trust-worthiness. When the avenues of ordinary communication are by the influence of weather rendered impassable, or at least ineligible, or yet more, when road, and river, and canal, are overwhelmed with snow, or locked in ice, the railway locomotive pursues its unimpeded course in solitary triumph.

The following is a playful, but graphic description of its successive operations, as extracted from the *Railway Magazine*. "Although the whole passage is a series of enchantments, surpassing any in the *Arabian Nights*, because they are realities, not fictions, yet there are certain epochs in the transit, which are peculiarly exciting. These are the startings, the ascents and descents, the tunnels, and the meetings. At the instant of starting, or rather before, the automaton heaves forth an explosion of

steam, and seems for a second or two quiescent, but quickly the explosions are reiterated with shorter and shorter intervals, till they become too rapid to be counted, though still distinct, resembling most nearly, the pantings of a lion or a tiger. During the ascent, they become slower and slower, till the automaton actually labours like an animal out of breath, from the tremendous efforts to gain the highest point of the elevation, the progression is proportionate, and, before the said point is gained, the train is not moving faster than a horse could pace; with the slow motion of the animated machine, the breathing becomes more laborious, the growl more distinct, till at length the animal appears exhausted, and groans like the tiger, when nearly overpowered in contest by the buffalo. The moment that the height is reached, and the descent commences, the pantings rapidly increase, the engine with its train starts off with an augmenting velocity, and in a few seconds it is flying down the declivity like lightning, and with a uniform growl or roar, like a continuous discharge of distant artillery. Although it was then a dead calm, the wind appeared to be blowing a hurricane, such was the velocity with which we darted through the air; yet all was steady, and there was something in the precision of the machinery, that inspired a degree of confidence over fear—of safety over danger. A man may travel from the pole to the equator, from the Straits of Malacca to the Isthmus of Darien, and he will see nothing so astonish-

ing as this. The pangs of Etna and Vesuvius excite feelings of horror as well as of terror; the convulsion of the elements during a thunder storm, carries with it nothing of pride, much less of pleasure, to counteract the awe inspired by the fearful workings of perturbed nature; but the scene, which is here presented, and which cannot be adequately described, engenders a proud consciousness of superiority in human ingenuity, more intense and convincing, than any effect or product of the poet, the painter, the philosopher, or the divine; the transits of the train through the tunnels or arches are electrifying, the deafening peal of thunder, the sudden immersion in gloom, and the clash of reverberated sounds in confined space, combine to produce a momentary shudder or idea of destruction, a thrill of annihilation, which is instantly dispelled on emerging into the cheerful light. The meetings or crossings of the steam-trains flying in opposite directions, are scarcely less agitating to the nerves, than the transit through the tunnels; the velocity of their course, the propinquity or identity of the iron orbits along which these meteors move, call forth the involuntary but fearful thought of a possible collision, with all its threatening consequences; the period of suspense, however, though exquisitely painful, is but momentary, and, in a few seconds, the object of terror is far out of sight behind." Although so much is here said of ascents and descents, of heights and declivities, it is scarcely necessary to observe, that any serious de-

viations from a plane and direct course are, or should be, avoided; no line works so economically and well, as one perfectly level, and that, which approaches nearest to it, approaches in the same proportion to perfection. In order to obtain such levels, and to avoid sharp turns, rivers and valleys must be crossed by bridges and embankments, elevated lands must be cut through, and, in cases of strong necessity, mountains must be pierced with tunnels.

It is of universal knowledge, that the Romans were so convinced of the necessity of good roads, to the progress of civilization, that a very considerable revenue was set apart for, and a state officer appointed to superintend, this branch of their domestic economy; while abroad, the first act that followed conquests, was the formation of those military ways, that will ever be beheld with admiration, as monuments of their greatness and wisdom; but it may not be so well understood, that those roads, in the principles both of their plan and construction, approach so closely to the modern railway, as strongly to suggest, that this interesting people only wanted a knowledge of steam, and its application as a motive power, to have adopted a similar medium of transit. In evidence of this position, a writer in the French Encyclopædia, article "*chemin*," adverting to the Roman roads, says: "They were commenced every where by two furrows measured by a string, these parallel lines deciding the width of the road; the intervening space was then excavated,

and in this depth the several layers of the road materials were laid, the first being a cement of chalk and sand, an inch thick; on this cement, as a first coat, broad and flat stones, six inches high, were placed one on the other, and connected by a very strong mortar; as a second coat followed a thickness of eight inches of small round stones softer than pebbles, intermixed with tiles, slates, and the fragments of buildings, all worked to an adhesive substance; and as a third coat, a thickness of a foot of cement, made from rich earth mixed with chalk. These interior substances formed a road from three to three and a half feet thick, and upon this was placed an entire surface of gravel, bound by a cement with a mixture of chalk, and this crust is still to be found perfect in several parts of Europe." Not only in this instance did the Roman roads approach to the principle adopted in the formation of railways, namely, to secure a level surface by overcoming natural obstacles, and upon this to erect a solid line of road, but they also exhibit the most scrupulous adherence to directness of course, a straightness from place to place, which they would not suffer to be diverted, but by the interposition of a hill that could not be directly ascended, the interruption of a river that could not be easily forded, or the intervention of a moss or bog which could not be crossed at all; but, for the adoption of this latter obvious principle of inter-communication, the Romans, at that period of society, are not perhaps entitled to

any peculiar merit; their works were constructed when the laws of property were suspended by the rights of conquest, and when, in truth, there were no such vested interests to be respected or asserted, as have, in modern times, necessitated deviations from the right forward course. The most gratifying reflection in the comparison must, however, be, that while the ancient Roman roads were often the medium of inflicting war, oppression, and slavery, modern railways are the arteries, by which all the blessings of peace are circulated through the world.

The first known in England were formed of wood, and introduced about the middle of the seventeenth century, amongst the collieries of Newcastle, for the conveyance of coals from the pits to the several places of shipment on the Tyne. In 1767, the proprietors of the Colebrook-Dale Iron Works first laid down iron rails, and, about the same time, the eminent James Watt is said to have contemplated the application of steam to the impelling of carriages on a railway; but the earliest launch of a locomotive engine on rails, took place in 1804, at Merthyr Tydvil, in South Wales, and this was succeeded by the establishment of other railways on a small scale. All these were, however, but individual speculations, to facilitate the objects of private companies, chiefly in the mining districts, and for the conveyance of goods exclusively. At last, in September, 1830, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was opened to the public for the conveyance of passen-

gers, and in 1833, the Bill, for the formation of the London and Birmingham Railway, received the royal assent; the scientific excitements of the discovery were received, like electricity, over Germany and every part of the continent, while America had already forerun the rivalries of the old world, by such stupendous elongations of railroads, as were not less commensurate with the subject, than with the wondrous expanses they traverse.

Ireland likewise ventured to express a longing after such projects, and, at the close of the year 1834, the completion of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway, five and a half miles in length, afforded to the citizens of Dublin increased facilities for health and recreation: the Ulster Railway, from Belfast to Portadown, succeeded; but the honour remained for Drogheda, of preceding even the cities of Ireland in establishing a line, which, over the harbour of that town, one of the main out-ports of the island, will receive the commerce and correspondence of Ulster and Scotland and the West of England, that will be the medium of transit for three millions of people, including the most trading and enterprising of the Irish population; and, in a little hour, unaffected by the obstacles of bar harbours, uncertainties of winds, or the risks of the warring elements along the shore of which it runs, will deliver alike goods and passengers, such is the excellence of its termini, in the heart of the metropolis. This first project, in (it is to be hoped) a series of enlightened efforts to

place Ireland on an equality with the other parts of the kingdom, was met with the most implicit confidence of the mercantile interests, brought a large increase of capital into that country, stimulated industry by its judicious expenditure, afforded incalculable sources of employment to labourers and artificers, raised the character of the town from which it emanated, and promises materially to promote its trade and manufactures. By the intellect and zeal of a native of the town(*a*), were the plan and prospectus of the course of this railroad devised, and by the willing contributions of the merchants of Dublin, with the powerful co-operation of those of Manchester, was that plan matured, and that prospectus realized. Espoused in its progress by many of the

(*a*) Mr. Thomas Brodigan, of Pilton House, the gentleman here alluded to, received a vote of thanks from the inhabitants of Drogheda, in January, 1836, for originating this important measure, as one, "to whose activity, intelligence, and ability," in the words of their resolution, "we are indebted for its present state of advancement;" and in the October following, the Corporation of that town unanimously voted him the freedom of their Body, which was presented in a gold box, with an address, testifying their high estimation of his private character, "as well as of the zeal and ability which he uniformly evinced in promoting works of public utility, and more especially in the unwearied assiduity with which he had laboured to procure, and finally succeeded in obtaining, an Act for establishing a railroad from Dublin to Drogheda, a work which originated in the suggestions of his active and intelligent mind, and from which are anticipated the happiest results to the trade and prosperity of the town."

local proprietary, and protected by renewed enactments of beneficial legislation(*a*), the Dublin and Drogheda Railroad will, in an incredibly short interval, in regard to the difficulties it may be said to have encountered by sea and land, be thrown open to the public. Nobly overcoming all these obstacles, by a series of bold but effective works, with a total exemption from the expense, impurity, and physical dangers of tunnels, yet without much objectionable invasion of private property, or intrusion upon individual privacy, it opens a coast of the finest bathing strands in Ireland, the most interesting offing for marine recreation, while it traverses a district of superior fertility and picturesque attractions, thickly peopled, and of much trade in agriculture, manufactures, fisheries, and fruit; inviting new and hitherto remote sources of purveyance into the metropolis, and affording easy, cheap, and expeditious travelling, with a rapid and economical interchange of the chief articles of consumption and commerce. With all these external advantages of the course, this line has happily, in its whole progress, developed the finest materials for its own construction; nor have the consequent facilities for its rapid execution, induced any remission of diligence and judgment in the engineering operations, which exhibit some of the finest results science could achieve, while the whole works have been conducted with a rigid attention to eco-

(*a*) The Acts passed for its promotion, are 6 & 7 Will. IV. c. cxxxii., 1 Vict. c. 106, and 3 & 4 Vict. c. cvi.

nomy, progressively improved and perfected on the experience of preceding similar undertakings. The contracts have been made on terms generally more favourable to the Company, than the detailed estimates could have led them to anticipate, whereby the share capital, originally required, has been reduced from £600,000 to £450,000, and the holders, primarily liable for £100 each share, have had their responsibility lessened to £75. The several engagements of the Company have been discharged promptly in cash, and no debt has been incurred, so that, while the labouring classes have been largely benefited by a fair circulation of wages, the subscribers will doubtless receive an ample profit from their investment.

Before entering upon the details of the ensuing Memoir, it seems desirable to take a retrospective view of the progress and condition of roads, vehicles, mails, and travelling in Ireland. In the porch of this inquiry, it may appear ultra-methodical, to allude to periods so remote as the commencement of the Christian era, or the introduction of the Gospel into Ireland, yet, as in the former it is recorded from the pen of Tacitus, that "its channels and harbours were better known to merchants, than those of Britain," and, as in the latter and for centuries afterwards, it was, as the great Doctor Johnson expresses himself, "the school of the West, the quiet habitation of sanctity and literature," the license may be conceded without a censure, the more espe-

cially as the character of the invasions that succeeded, was such as to eradicate all traces of civilization from the land.

The commerce, noticed by Tacitus, may well be supposed to have induced the formation of roads and causeways; accordingly, the Annals of Tigernach (written in the eleventh century) record a battle fought in the beginning of the third, "on the road of Cuallgnia," (*anglice* Collon), which was situated in the vicinity of Drogheda, also "the battle of the recess of the road," "the battle of the corner of the causeway;" and other domestic legends say, that four grand highways issued from the celebrated hill of Usneach in the county Westmeath, to the different quarters of the country. In a fragment extant of the Brehon Laws, a locality (Tuam-Drecan) is defined as being "at the meeting of the three roads;" and in that curious topographical tract, the Dinn-seanchus, embodied in the Book of Lecan, five principal roads of Ireland are described as converging at the royal hill of Tara, one of these, Slighe Cualann, led from Wicklow through Dublin and Ratoath; another, Slighe Mor, divided Ireland nearly equally, approaching Tara by the way of Trim; a third, Slighe Muodhluachra, came from Drogheda through Duleek; and of these roads some traces are said to be still discoverable. A highly ancient causeway, upwards of twenty feet in width, is yet pointed out, from Inis Caorach, on the north side of the Shannon, to the mainland, and another across

Lough Gara in Connaught. This species of communication was constructed of stones and huge blocks of timber, fixed firmly over fordable places, and extending in irregular succession from bank to bank. Tigernach mentions a battle fought at the road of the two fords," in 587, another "at the road of the rock," in 726, and relates the formation of the road (toghar) of Athlone in 1001, by the co-operation of O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, and O'Conor, King of Connaught; a stone causeway is also alleged to have been constructed thence to Clonmacnoise in 1170, and several bridges and mills are, in the native Annals, stated to be erected at the latter period.

That the ancient Irish used chariots or cars for travelling, is expressly stated in the very early Annals of Tigernach, and in other Irish chronicles, as those of the Four Masters, of Inisfallen, &c. Indeed, in the intercourse that existed between this country and Britain, more especially at the time of the Roman occupation of the latter kingdom, it would be difficult to imagine, that the Irish, if they had not cars of their own invention, could have failed to introduce them thence. That the Britons went to the field of battle in chariots, is too well known to require illustration, and Diodorus Siculus extends their use to the ordinary purposes of travelling. So frequent were they in Britain, that Cæsar alleges, Cassibelaunus, after he had dismissed in despair all his other forces, retained no fewer than four thousand of these war chariots about his person; and

here it is worthy of notice, that the Greek *κάρρον*, and the Latin "carrus," are said to be actually derived from the Celtic "carr," and the very word "rota" from the Celtic "rhod," both retained in the Irish, *carb* and *poth*. After the introduction of Christianity, the Lives of the Saints make various incidental mentions of chariots. Saint Patrick, towards the close of his mission, is stated to have used a chariot in his progresses, "according to an ancient custom of the country." In the Synod attributed to him, one of the canons prohibits a clergyman's travelling from town to town with a female in the same vehicle ("in uno curru"). Cogitosus repeatedly speaks of "the car of Brigid." Adamnan, who wrote in the seventh century, makes mention of Saint Columba's chariot, and furnishes, in another place, evidence of such vehicles being used in battle, where, speaking of the engagement at Monamoir in Ulster, he records the escape of Eochod Laib in his chariot, a proposition which Tigernach confirms, by stating chariots as in use in battle in A. D. 500.

There can be no justifiable reason for setting up modern incredulity, against those testimonies of Irish History and ancient traditions, yet it must be admitted, that on the arrival of the English, but few of these vestiges of former civilization and social intercourse were apparent to them. It is true, that Giraldus Cambrensis (the contemporary of the first invasion, and the tutor of Prince John when he visited Ireland) writes, that the native Irish, when

they heard the English were about to besiege Dublin, obstructed "all the narrow and wooded ways about the city," whereupon, the invaders declined all these avenues, and, passing through the mountains of Glendalough, arrived in safety before the walls of Dublin. In a subsequent passage, speaking of the expedition of John de Courcy into Ulster, he narrates, that he fought a battle at Ferney, where, by reason of the narrowness of the way (*arctum viæ transitum*), he was utterly discomfited. Yet, no distinct description as of existing roads, and much less of vehicles, is found in his works. There is a patent, however, on record, as of the date of 1350, which defines various roads as then existing in the county Wexford, and which were thereby declared to be the respective boundaries of a district granted by Walter Marshal Earl of Pembroke, to the abbey of Tintern. In 1376, the Dean and Chapter of Cashel were, by a special royal license, exempted from attending at Carlow (then the seat of the Irish government, the Courts, and the Royal Treasury), "on account of the difficulties and obstructions of the intermediate roads." The Bishop of Kerry had a similar indulgence in the time of Richard the Second, dispensing with his personal attendance at a Parliament held in Dublin in 1404. At the close of the reign of that unfortunate monarch, when he made his second visit to Ireland, a contemporaneous Metrical History of the expedition states, that, when he would have marched from Kilkenny into the

kingdom of Leinster, he commanded 2500 of the country people to clear a passage, "for there were then no roads, neither could any person, however he might be furnished with bold and valiant men, find a passage, the woods were so dangerous." It will be, however, observed, that all these notices refer to localities without the English Pale. In 1428, Sir John Sutton, when Viceroy of Ireland, made a successful expedition against the O'Byrnes, on which occasion the Sheriff of the county of Dublin was ordered to provide for his use on the journey, one hundred carts of victuals; "bigas," being the word used in the record, and which, in its ordinary and derivative application, expresses vehicles drawn by two horses. In the reign of Henry the Seventh, when Sir Richard Edgecombe was sent to Ireland, to receive the homage of the misguided Irishry who had espoused the cause of Lambert Simnel, he fixed his stations almost exclusively at the sea-ports of the Eastern coast; it is, however, worthy of notice, that, on the 23rd of July (1488), "about eight of the bell, he went to the Earl of Kildare, to a place called All Hallows, without Dublin, and there had long communication with him and his council, and on that day, at after dinner, the said Sir Richard rode to Drogheda, twenty-four miles thence;" no small test, as it would seem, to the facilities of this way, which, even then, was obviously a medium of paramount intercourse.

Finglas, who was Chief Baron of the Irish Ex-

chequer in the time of Henry the Eighth, in his 'Breviate' recommends (*inter alia*), that the Lord Deputy shall appropriate eight days in every summer, to cutting passes through the woods next adjoining the king's subjects, which shall be thought most needful; and amongst these he enumerates particularly the passes to Powerscourt and Glancree, that to Ballymore [Eustace], one towards Donegal, another by Faughart (necessarily, it would appear, through Drogheda), &c. About the same time, in a memorial drawn up, of the "State of Ireland with a Plan for its Reformation," it was suggested, "that every horseman, whatsoever condition he be of, dwelling within the English Pale, shall be charged to ride always in a saddle; and that every gentleman of lands shall be charged to have his horse and his harness, and his spears, after the manner of the Welch spears, ready at all times to answer the king's deputy, when need shall require." Carts and carriages, for the conveyance of provisions and munition to the hostings, and for domestic uses, are often mentioned at this time; there were even cessors appointed to compel the attendance of the former within the Pale, while it was one of the charges against the Earl of Kildare, that he obliged "husbandmen to supply carts and men, to draw timber and stones to his manors three times in the year." Some more remarkable highways are, about this time, noted as existing within the Pale, as one from Dunboyne through Trim to Athboy, another from

Ardbraccan, through Slane and Mellefont, into Drogheda. These lines of intercourse were, however, few, even within the Pale, and in a despatch from Lord Leonard Grey to Lord Crumwell, in 1537, it is written : " A Friday we set forward from Maynooth to the Castle of Dangan, which was distant but five miles or thereabouts, and all marsh ground betwixt, so that we must have made the way thither with fagots and hurdles, and came within half a mile of the said Castle of Dangan by two of the clock at afternoon the same Friday, and there encamped in the field." " The season approaches," writes the same Viceroy, in October, to Henry the Eighth, " when Englishmen cannot well travel to do service in Ireland ;" when, to facilitate such service, it was recommended, " that castles and piles for defence should be made on the passes and streights of the country." How much they were required in the districts without the Pale, is suggested by Lord Deputy St. Leger, in a letter of state to Lord Crumwell. " Kilkenny, Tipperary, and Waterford," he writes, " being distant from the four shires that are obedient to the king's laws, the Justices for the administration thereof, could not conveniently repair to the said other three shires." In 1538, Lord Leonard Grey acquaints Henry the Eighth : " Sythens my last letters addressed unto your Highness, I have cut divers passes, and made such smooth ways, into your Grace's country of Offaley, for carriage of horsemen and footmen, that the like was never seen

there, and in like manner in the county of Farney." At the same time, Lord Grey reported, that the chieftain of Ely-O'Carrol (King's county) was "contented and agreed, that the Lord Deputy should cut at his pleasure, any passes in the said country of Ely-O'Carrol, after what sort and fashion the said Deputy should think good; and that said chieftain was contented and agreed, to make one good and sufficient way through his country, for his Highness's army and ordinance to pass without any let, on his own proper costs and charges." Of the O'Toole's territories (in the county Wicklow), Lord Grey writes: "I repaired, the 29th of May, to the Castle of Powerscourt, and from thence removed into the country of the O'Tooles, from one strong pass to another, cutting the woods, as was thought best by the gentlemen and commons of the country, most for the annoyance of the said Toolles so coming to their stronghold of Glanmolaur, where they bickered with my men, at which time there were certain slain of both parties. Notwithstanding, at that time, I caused two passes to be cut through, for the defence of my men, whereas, before my coming thither, I think there was never Deputy with carts there." This nobleman's services herein were, indeed, universally acknowledged in the State Papers of the period. When O'Neill submitted himself to English rule in 1541, he covenanted to cut down all the thickets, groves, and woods, growing between his country and the English frontiers, so that free

access, ingress and egress, might be afforded to the Lord Deputy. It was also provided, that about Green-Castle and Mourne, "paths and ways should be cut and kept plain, as may help to bridle the Irishry of these parts, and to give passage into every quarter and corner of their country, if they would hereafter use themselves otherwise than appertaineth."

It may be here remarked, that, although by the common law of England, every parish was bound to keep its roads in repair, yet was it not until 1555 that, by an Act of the second and third years of the reign of Philip and Mary, statutable provisions were made for the mending of highways in that country; the same being, as the preamble of the Act states, "now both very noisome and tedious to travel in, and dangerous to all passengers and carriages." In Ireland, within a few years afterwards, Sir Henry Sidney speaks in terms of marked satisfaction of "the open highway" from Drogheda to Dundalk, and thence to Newry, and "the well-manured lands" through which it passed. His successor in the Vice-royalty, Arthur Lord Grey, Baron of Wilton, is said to have introduced the first coach into this country, being within a short interval after a similar vehicle had been seen in England. In 1596, the celebrated Edmund Spencer, in his able "View of the State of Ireland," suggests, amongst other improvements which that country required, "that order should be taken for the cutting and opening of all places through woods,

so that a wide way, of the space of one hundred yards, might be laid open in every of them, for the safety of travellers, which use so often, in such perilous places, to be robbed, and sometimes murdered." Accordingly, Fynes Moryson, in his account of Lord Mountjoy's expedition into Ulster against O'Neill in 1601, takes occasion to make frequent mention of such extensive operations in cutting down the woods to open the passes. In 1612, the Irish legislature adopted, to a great extent, the Act of Philip and Mary, and with an equally significant preamble, "for as much as the highways and cashes, and paces, and passages, throughout the woods of this kingdom, are in many places both noisome and tedious to travel in, and dangerous to all passengers and carriages;" and it was enacted, that throughout the several parishes, every person keeping therein a draught or plough, shall find, on a day appointed, "one wain or cart, furnished after the custom of the country, with oxen, horses, or other cattle, and all other necessities meet to carry things convenient for that purpose."

In England, coaches for private use became more general during this latter period. Sir Lewis Lewwenor, Master of the Ceremonies to James the First, had, in 1610, an allowance of £22, partly "for the hire of divers coaches at sundry times, for the entertainment of the Ambassador of Swetheland this last summer;" another sum of £112, "for the hire of sundry caroches and coaches for the Prince of

Anhalt, and Monsieur la Verdin, one of the Marshals of France;" another sum of £125, "for the hire of coaches and caroches for the Emperor Palatine and his court, from the time of their arrival in England," &c. &c. "The Prince's coach horses" are also alluded to in similar records of the day; and in 1616, is the entry of a payment of £10, to those who discovered the thieves "that robbed the king's coach, and her Majesty's rich litter." In more immediate reference to Ireland, and the first suggestion of mail communication thence with the sister country, John Francis, the post of Chester, had an allowance from the Treasury of 6*d.* per mile, for carrying a packet from the Lord Deputy of Ireland, from Chester to York, to Sir Thomas Lake, and Sir Humphrey May, Knights. In the Pell Records of four years afterwards appears a yet more pertinent entry: "For keeping a bark at Holyhead, with furniture, to transport the packet to Ireland, and serving the post by land, at £10 per month, after twenty-eight days to the month, £130 yearly."

Notwithstanding the above notices, King James's immediate successor was the first British Sovereign who rode in a state coach. While in Ireland, the work of clearance of passes, such as they were, so progressed, that Lord Strafford, in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, assigns the fact, in excuse for not transmitting to that Prelate such a number of martin skins as he had intended, "the truth is, that, as the woods decay, so do the hawks and

martins of this kingdom." The roads generally constructed at the time, were of the class called toghers, being of loose shaking hurdles laid over the bogs and lowlands. These unsteady avenues are repeatedly mentioned in the Earl of Castlehaven's Memoirs, one more particularly near Tecroghan, in Meath, "with a large ditch of water at each side," and at each end of which the Earl's horse "stood drawn up on firm land." It will be seen, however, in the General History of Drogheda, that a traveller in Ireland, in 1634, describes the road from that town to Dublin, "as dainty a fine way as ever I rid, and a most pleasant country, greatest part corn, upon the very sea coast, and very good and well-reared corn." In 1641, when Galway was threatened with a siege, the Marquess of Clanrickarde gave orders, "that the ways and passages to that town should be cleared, so that the markets might reach it;" while a traveller in Munster, in 1644, speaks of Cork as three days' journey from Limerick.

In the time of the Commonwealth, an Irish ordinance of Cromwell, after reciting a parliamentary resolution in England, that the office of Postmaster, inland and foreign, ought to be in the sole power of Parliament, and an arrangement in pursuance thereof, whereby the offices of the postages of letters, both foreign and inland, were set to farm unto John Manly of London, under certain covenants for the benefit and advantage of the Commonwealth, it was thereby agreed, "that the said John Manly should

have the sole charge of the postage and carriage of all letters and packets, both foreign and inland, to and from all persons, and in all places of England, Scotland, and Ireland, he the said John Manly receiving certain prescribed rates of postage for private letters, and carrying State letters free; and, to the end a weekly intercourse may be continued between England and Ireland, the said John Manly shall maintain one or more packet-boats, to pass and re-pass, if not hindered by wind and weather, weekly between Milford and Waterford, and between Chester and Dublin, or to settle such other ways and means for a weekly correspondence between these places, as may be equivalent for speed and security with the ways aforesaid that for the more speedy and effectual dispatch of all of the said posts and premises, the said John Manly shall be, and is hereby, obliged to cause the said posts to run seven miles per hour, in summer, from the 1st of April to the 1st of November, and five miles for the rest of the year; that for the more speedy despatch thereof, no other person, besides the post that carrieth the mail, shall be suffered to ride post with the mail, and that no person or persons warranted to ride post, shall ride above one stage upon the same post horses, to the wrong of such horses, and the prejudice of the posts."

In the time of Charles the Second, as appears from the State letters of Arthur Earl of Essex, while the packet ships sailed as frequently as weather permitted, the interval for the transmission of

letters from Dublin to London, varied from seven to twelve days. The Earl of Orrery soon afterwards took an active part in establishing post barks between Holyhead and Dublin, but the continuing difficulties of communication may be estimated by a notice, which occurs in a letter of his: "We have now eight packets due out of England, so cross the winds have been for one month, to our no small trouble." The State correspondence of the same nobleman gives a curious illustration of the condition of the roads in Munster, where, writing from Charleville to the Duke of Ormonde, he advises him to make his journey from Kilkenny to Cork through that town, as much more eligible than that by Clonmel and Cappoquin, "for that not only would he find on the latter line but ill places to rest in, but, by the bridge of Cappoquin being broken, he would not get from Kilkenny to Cork by that way in three days' journey, which by Charleville he easily might;" he subsequently mentions Mallow, as having the only bridge over the Blackwater, "which, in winter time, and in rainy seasons in summer, is not passable for above sixty miles." Later in the same reign, it may be here mentioned, viz., in 1678, the first stage coach was established in Scotland. During this reign, the use of private carriages had greatly advanced in Ireland, and, when the Earl of Clarendon landed at Dunleary in 1685, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he states himself, that he awaited there "till a committee of the Council came out, according

to usual form, whereupon he went with the rest of the company (who were a great many, and many carriages), himself riding in the Lord Primate's coach, to the Council chamber." Soon after assuming the duties of his office, he communicated to the Earl of Sunderland his opinion, that an instruction which he had received, for establishing a packet boat between Ireland and Scotland, would be very useful; "there being no way of corresponding with his Majesty's ministers in that kingdom but by the way of London, whereas, if there were a packet boat, all letters would be sooner at Edinburgh from Ireland, than they are at London. Besides, it is said," he adds, "it would bring on a trade between these kingdoms; the charge to the king for two boats, will not be above fourscore pounds per annum," and for that he undertakes to have it effected. When Lord Tyrconnel landed at Dunleary, in June, 1686, Lord Clarendon sent his coach to meet him; and such vehicles are repeatedly mentioned throughout Clarendon's Correspondence, as being of ordinary use in Ireland.

King William, on his landing at Carrickfergus, was met by Duke Schomberg, in whose carriage he departed thence; but his Majesty was not disposed to continue the indulgence of such a luxury, and his marches hence were on horseback. After the battle of the Boyne, however, Colonel Bellingham describes his taking his coach at Duleek. The road between Dundalk and Newry was defined by

Story, as at this time "only a causeway with a deep ditch over a bog," while the communication between Drogheda and Dundalk was through Ardee. The same historian describes a causeway as then running through the Bog of Allen, while he complains, however, that all communication thereby was prevented by the rapparees having cut trenches across it. In the second year of Queen Anne's reign, by an Act of the Legislature, hackney coaches were first licensed to ply within the city of Dublin, to a number not exceeding one hundred and fifty; while chairs, or sedans, were similarly authorized, to the number of eighty, and carts and cars were also thereby licensed to ply for hire. Some idea of the state of intercourse between that metropolis and London, at this period, may be formed from a letter of Dean Swift, in 1710, where, writing to Stella of his arrival in London, at a period when he was but forty-three years old, he says: "I got here from Dublin last Thursday, after five days' travelling, weary the first, almost dead the second, tolerably the third, and well enough the rest, and am now glad of the fatigue, which has served for exercise." In the ensuing reign, the same authority suggests evidence of the tardiness of journeying in Ireland, when, being at Quilca, the seat of Doctor Sheridan, in the county Cavan, he intimates, that he will "set out to Dublin on Monday, and hope to sup at the deanery the next night." A stage coach was, at this period, running, but irregularly, between Dublin and Drogheda, as

may be judged from the following advertisement in the *Dublin Weekly Journal* of 1726: "This is to give notice to gentlemen and others, that the Drogheda stage, formerly kept by Jer. Greadon, is now kept by John Keating, coachmaker, in Capel-street, who has repaired the said coach, and provided a set of good horses, so that he hopes there shall be no complaints, as formerly, of their non-performance. N. B. The said stage coach sets out from Dublin on Tuesdays and Fridays, exactly at eight of the clock in the morning, from the sign of the 'White Hart,' the upper end of Capel-street, and returns on Wednesdays and Saturdays; the said stage sets up at the sign of the 'Drogheda Arms,' in Deer-street, Drogheda. N. B. The said Drogheda stage baits at Ballough, at Mr. Huddleston's." A Kilkenny stage coach was running at the same time, in relation to which another advertisement appears in the same periodical: "Notice is hereby given, that Thomas Hall, keeper of the Kilkenny stage coach, finding himself incapable of continuing the same, unless the prices are augmented; the badness of roads, the dearness of corn, oblige him to it. Any person, that goes in the said coach, from the eighth day of July, 1728, is to pay 15s., three half-crowns at entrance, both at Dublin and Kilkenny; no person to be allowed more than twenty pounds weight gratis."

In the commencement of the reign of George the Second, when the turnpike system was intro-

duced into Ireland, one of the first to which its advantages were extended, was nearly on the line of the present railway. The Act, by which this object was effected, was passed in the fifth year of that monarch's reign. It recites, "that whereas the highway or road leading from the city of Dublin through the town of Swords, Balrothery, Drogheda, and thence to Dunleer, by reason of several hollow ways, and of the many and heavy carriages frequently passing through the same, is become so ruinous and bad, that in the winter season, many parts thereof are unpassable for waggons, carts, cars, and carriages, and very dangerous for travelling, and cannot, by the ordinary course appointed by the laws and statutes of this realm, be effectually mended and kept in good repair, wherefore, and to the intent that the said highways and roads may, with convenient speed, be effectually amended, and hereafter kept in good and sufficient repair, so that all persons may travel through the same with safety;" and after this preamble, it vests the management of the road in trustees, of whom, it is curious to observe, a very large number were the lineal ancestors of those, who have supported the present coast line of railway, as Lord Howth, Lord Bellew, Sir Thomas Taylor, Sir Compton Domville, James Hamilton, Thomas Taylor, James Somerville, Charles Hamilton, John Preston, Nathaniel Preston, Honourable Edward Brabazon, Thomas Fortescue, Faithful Fortescue, John Montgomery, Thomas Tennison, Henry Town-

ley, Benedict Arthur, Thomas Montgomery, Richard Foster, George Pepper, John Coddington, William Shephard, Captain Hugh Montgomery, Alderman Henry Ogle, Alderman John Leigh, Alderman Francis Leigh, the Rev. Mr. John Wynne, Jeremiah Smith, Henry Bellingham, senior, Henry Bellingham, jun., John Foster, Edward Bellew, William Ruxton, John Taafe, Chapel Dawson, Hamilton Townley, Francis North, — Taylor of Swords, Alexander Hamilton, William Ogle, Richard Jebb, William Graves, Thomas Aston, Anthony Dona, &c. &c. And the said trustees were thereby empowered to erect gates and turnpikes, and to take tolls, viz., “for every coach, berlin, chariot, calash, chaise, or chair, drawn by six horses, or more, one shilling; for every coach, berlin, &c., drawn by a less number than six, and more than one, sixpence; for every waggon, wain, cart, or carriage, with four wheels, one shilling; for every wain, cart, or carriage, with two wheels, having more than one horse, three pence; for every carriage, commonly called a chair or chaise, with one horse, mare, or gelding, three pence, &c. And the usual powers and duties were prescribed for the said trustees, and exemptions for any post horse carrying the mail, and for all coaches and passengers upon the days assigned for the elections of the parliamentary representatives of the counties of Dublin, Meath, and Louth, the city of Dublin, and the town of Drogheda. Various Acts of the same period describe the leading roads through Ireland as in an

equally ruinous and scarcely passable condition, and provide similar remedies by the establishment of turnpikes. The road thus appropriated, on this line, to more civilized intercourse, superseded the original direct horse road by Glasnevin, Ballyboghil, and the Naul.

In 1735, the Archbishop of Cashel, in a letter to Dean Swift, gives a graphic sketch of the opportunities for travel southward, with the object of inducing the Dean to come down to Cashel. "You have to Kilkenny a turnpike, and good inns at every ten or twelve miles end. From Kilkenny hither is twenty long miles, bad road, and no inn at all, but I have an expedient for you; at the foot of a very high hill, just midway, there lives, in a neat thatched cabin, a parson, who is not poor, and his wife is allowed to be the best little woman in the world. Her chickens are the fattest, and her ale the best in all the country. Besides, the parson has a little cellar of his own, of which he keeps the key, where he always has a hogshead of the best wine that can be got, in bottles well corked upon their side, and he cleans and pulls out the cork better, I think, than Robin. Here I design to meet you with a coach. If you be tired, you shall stay all night; if not, after dinner we will set off, about four, and be at Cashel by nine, and by going through fields and bye ways, which the parson will shew us, we shall escape all the rocky and stony roads that lie between this place and that, which are certainly

very bad." It must not be forgotten, that turnpike roads were rare even in England at this time. In 1739, the great northern turnpike extended only to Grantham, 111 miles from London. Goods were then more usually transported on pack horses, thirty or forty in a string, the leader carrying a bell, to give travellers in an opposite direction notice of their approach, and, as the track was generally a narrow causeway, with a soft road on either side, travellers who met these gangs of horses, and were obliged to give way, frequently found much difficulty in regaining their course; the transmission of goods in Ireland, by similar links of pack horses, is almost within the memory of living men. The stage progress on the Drogheda and northern line, in 1741, is evidenced, by advertisement of that year, in the following words: "The Belfast stage coach sets up with Alexander Kelly, at the 'Boot,' in Bolton-street, sets out at eight o'clock in the morning on Mondays, and returns to Dublin on Saturdays; each passenger pays four English crowns, half in hand at taking the seat, which half is forfeited if the person does not come. Rate to Drogheda, where it stops the first night, 5s. 5d.; Newry, the second night, 13s., and so in proportion." This lumbering vehicle was kept in motion by "six able horses," and it may be remarked, that but in three other directions, viz., to Athlone, Kinnegad, and Kilkenny, respectively, was it attempted to propel stage coaches for public accommodation, and in each with similar

celerity. The mails were entrusted to single horsemen or foot-boys, those to Drogheda going only twice in the week. At the close of this reign, in 1756, the first navigable canal, the Duke of Bridgewater's, was opened in England; but Drogheda had contemplated this mode of intercourse, by so early an anticipation as of 1715, in a navigation in aid of the course of the Boyne to Trim; a project which was not, however, accomplished until 1787, as more particularly set forth in "the History of Drogheda" hereafter; and in 1765, the cutting of a grand canal, from the metropolis to Shannon Harbour, was first commenced.

At the commencement of the reign of George the Third, two stage coaches opened a daily intercourse from Dublin to Drogheda, each plying on the week days alternately, and Drogheda was promoted to be a three day post. About this time, the fashion of the low-back car had its origin, but was continued in use to a very recent period; the character of this vehicle is well described in an old poem:

Well might an artist travel from afar,
To view the structure of a low-backed car;
A downy mattress on the car is laid,
The father sits beside his tender maid,
Some back to back, some side to side are placed,
The children in the centre interlaced.
By dozens, thus, full many a Sunday morn,
With dangling legs, the jovial crowd is borne,
Clontarf they seek, or *Howth's* aspiring brow,
Or Leixlip smiling in the stream below.

The horse with pillion, was another species of *loco-*

motive much preferred, in those simple times, for females, and is not yet utterly disused in this country. The post continued to be carried on horseback, as it was in England, until 1784, when mail coaches with guards were there first established. The improvement was adopted in Ireland in 1790, when two only were started from Dublin with guards; one, called the southern mail, to Cork, the other, the northern, through Drogheda to Donaghadee. Drogheda became thereupon a daily post, and now receives its letters twice on every day. Thus, the old rough stone causeway was succeeded by the lowland "togher," and that by the bridle road, which directly and unflinchingly trampled over hill and dale. But the bridle road was in its turn deserted, and at last, the succeeding better levels for the low-back car, were superseded by the turnpike and mail coach lines, until, after travelling by horse-power had attained the highest perfection, the revelation of steam offers the greatest velocity, with the least retarding influence, in the "Chemin de Fer,"

THE DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA RAILWAY.

The district of the city of Dublin, from which this line issues, was, in very remote time, the immediate demesne of a splendid establishment of Cistercians, founded in the twelfth century, in that street of the metropolis still called therefrom, "St. Mary's Abbey." This tract was, with Clonliff, bestowed upon it by Strongbow, on his first acquisition, and

his grant was, with large additions and manorial rights, confirmed by Henry the Second in 1172, and by Prince John in 1185. The vigilance of the superiors of this house, and of those of Thomas Court and Kilmainham, and that of the Archbishops of Dublin, in reference to St. Sepulchre's, precluded the extension of the city for centuries. In 1338, the Liffey was so frozen over, that athletic sports were fearlessly exercised hereabout, and even fires kindled for culinary purposes upon it. The abbot of St. Mary's had then a limited right of fishery, and of customs of fish on the river, as well as a liberty of having hake nets on the North Strand. The citizens were subsequently permitted to exercise in feats of tilting and archery over this tract, and wagers of battle, or single combat, were, under the chivalrous sanction of the times, decided upon it. In 1530, Sir William Skeffington having landed as Lord Deputy, at the head of this strand, with the Bishop of Meath and the Earl of Kildare, was met on the beach, by the Mayor and citizens of Dublin, who escorted him in procession into the city. No part of the harbour was then embanked, and the Liffey, the Tolka, and the Dodder, with the currents of the tide, flowed uncontrolled and undirected over the whole intermediate grounds. Previous to 1697, old St. Michan's parish included all of Dublin, north of the Liffey. Mary's parish was then carved out of it, and included the tract at present under consideration. In 1716, the Corporation of Dublin had

the North Strand surveyed, and divided into two classes, called Acre and Foot Lots, because, for these divisions the Corporation drew lots, and that which fell to each man was granted in fee farm, at the rent of £10 per annum, for ten years, and afterwards of a pepper corn. The pecuniary rent, thus reserved, was intended to be appropriated for the erection of a wall to enclose the Strand from the sea, and thus also to deepen the channel of the river. The sum, however, raised thereby, was found utterly inadequate, and parliamentary aid was sought and obtained, whereupon, in 1728, the North Wall was constructed, but the South was not commenced for twenty years afterwards. No portion of the city streets east of Sackville-street, then, nor for many subsequent years, existed, nor was it until 1781, that the splendid Custom-House, from whose immediate vicinity this railway starts, was commenced. It was completed in 1791, and thereupon the foundation of Carlisle-bridge was laid, and the Lots east of Sackville-street became a marketable commodity. An Act of 1793, after reciting that a great number of squares, streets, rows, and places, were laid out on the estate of the lordship of Mary's Abbey, and Grange of Clonliffe, directs that a portion of Mary's parish should be severed, and constituted that of St. Thomas, being bounded on the east by the Tolka from Ballybough to Glasnevin, and from within this last apportionment the Drogheda Railway issues. In 1795, a parliamentary committee was appointed

to inquire into the measures taken by the Commissioners of Wide Streets, for opening the passages from Sackville-street and Carlisle-bridge, and for laying out new streets to the eastward thereof. These projected improvements, however, progressed so slowly, that this railway has, over a comparatively unimpeded space, established its Dublin terminus at the city angle of the great Inner Custom-House Yard, near the Custom-House, its docks and stores, its bonding and general warehouses, within a short distance of the Post Office, the Banks, the College, the Theatres, on the verge of the shipping, and the quays whence the trade steamers ply, with a fine market yet more adjacent for fish and fowl and fruit, a portion of the traffic expected on the line; so that its terminus may be said to be fixed at the heart of the metropolis, the confluence of business and fashion, the centre of correspondence and recreation, the dense seat of a respectable and opulent population. As the architectural details of the buildings, which are to introduce the railway to its metropolitan visitors, are not yet wholly decided upon, they should not here be anticipated; suffice to say, it is intended, that they shall combine utility with ornament, in a manner worthy of the whole undertaking. The carriages will be of three classes, the third being fitted for standing passengers, as first introduced in Ireland on the Ulster Railway, will, from its great cheapness, extend the advantages of the conveyance to the humblest ranks.

In order to preserve the ordinary intercourse by roads and streets, the railway starts from this terminus at an elevation of seventeen feet above the ground surface; crosses Sheriff-street on an iron bridge, resting on Doric columns of the same material; thence, overlooking a noble expanse of an interesting portion of the city, from most parts of which it is itself a novel and conspicuous wonder, it runs over a continued and noble viaduct of about three hundred and fifty yards in length, from the terminus to Seville-place; the arches and piers of this first section are of brick, the span being twenty feet, and the form elliptic; a handsome stone coping runs along the parapet at each side of the railway, and the width of the viaduct thus far, being designed for four lines of road, is fifty-eight feet in the clear between the walls. The point of the Circular Road which the line intersects at Seville-place, has on the west side Aldborough House (a fine specimen of domestic architecture, in whose construction, Lord Aldborough expended £40,000, but which was then most injudiciously selected for a nobleman's residence), and on the east side, the calico printing liquor manufactory of Mr. White. Close to the latter, in the line of vision, but really at the far side of the Liffey, is discerned the tall slender funnel of the Alliance Gas Company's works. Seville-place is crossed by an elliptic arch of thirty feet span, composed of cast metal girders, with intermediate arching of brick based longitudinally upon them. This

is flanked with two semicircular arches over each footway, respectively, of eleven feet span, and also of brick. The extra width being no longer requisite, the railway is contracted thence to thirty feet in the clear between the parapets, a width which is preserved throughout the whole ensuing line, and, in order to soften off the angular shoulders created by this alteration, an octagon tower is erected on each side of the line. They also are of brick, with stone basements and corners, their upper portions being applicable for signal or other useful offices. Thence to the Royal Canal, the viaduct is continued on the same level as at the terminus, and with two lines of road, upon a series of arches, all of which as well as the first mentioned, are likely to be useful for warehouses, or other profitable purposes, when the traffic commences.

The Royal Canal, a noble line of inland navigation, after traversing with its trade, the intermediate country from the Shannon, here communicates with the Liffey and the bay, by sea-locks capable of admitting ships of 150 tons burthen. It will be crossed a little beyond Seville-place, by one of the boldest and most magnificent works of the line, a bridge of 140 feet span, of wrought iron lattice, resting on abutments and piers of masonry, at an elevation so considerable, as not to impede the public intercourse by footways and canal.

From this point, the railway, pursuing a straight north-easterly course, enters on an embankment, and

so continues across the North Lots, nearly at the same elevation above the surface. At right from this section, may be seen the funnel of Mr. Kane's oil of vitriol and bleaching powder works; at left, the street of the Strand, with a new Episcopal chapel in its centre: a bottle factory succeeds at right, and nearer, on the same side, the ruins of an eccentrically constructed glass-house, called Fort Crystal; while at left are a soap boilery, and the two funnels of the Dublin vitriol works. The railway then, reaching the north-east quay wall, or western boundary of the Clontarf estuary, throws itself into the sea, over two arches, each of forty feet span, one being over the quay wall, and the other in the sea; the abutments of both these are of massive rock-work masonry, and the superstructures of cast metal.

The panorama of Dublin bay, and its over-hanging bathing villages and villas, that opens, on its thus invading the immemorial dominion of the sea, is one of considerable beauty.

THE TOLKA,

a picturesque trout stream, that takes its rise near Clonee in the county of Meath, and, flowing through that of Dublin, intersects the barony of Castleknock, and bounds that of Coolock, empties itself at left into the estuary, discharging its waters through a handsome bridge of granite, consisting of three semicircular arches, and exhibiting, in the centre of the parapet, the arms of Lord Annesley, whose name

it bears. The village of

BALLYBOUGH(*a*),

(i. e. the town of huts), along the shore, now exhibits only a few insignificant houses, some of which, however, present, in their pointed roofs, evidences of ancient villas, but, situated as they are, on the banks of an area, that, under the action of the tide, was alternately a pool of muddy brine, or a surface of oozy strand, it hitherto offered little inducement for such improvements as will now, most probably, soon enhance the natural beauties of its situation. In the centre of this village is a Jewish cemetery, containing about a rood of ground, enclosed with a high wall, and thinly planted with trees and shrubs, among which are a few headstones with Hebrew inscriptions. There is also a flour mill at the head of the village, with good stores, and suitable machinery, and having a good mill race and weir, subject, however, to the ordinary inconvenience of such a river supply—in summer scanty, in winter superabundant. There is a record in relation to this locality, that, in 1313, John Decer, then a private citizen, but who had been a Mayor of Dublin, built a bridge, extending hence to “the causeway of the mill pool of Clontarf, which before was a dangerous

(*a*) Of the various localities alluded to in this Memoir, so far as the Railway runs through the county of Dublin, more extended notices, than could be considered here relevant, will be found in the “History of the County of Dublin.”

charge," but, after a considerable sum was expended upon the work, it was carried away by a flood. In the confiscations consequent upon the war of 1641, Sir James Wemyss, the eldest son of Sir Patrick Wemyss (who was a native of Scotland, the confidential friend, and Captain-Lieutenant to the Earl of Ormond, in the army of King Charles the First, and from whom, through the said Sir James, the family who settled at Dunfert, in the county Kilkenny, is lineally descended), obtained a patent of a messuage and several parks near Ballybough, as did James Duke of York (afterwards James the Second), of eighty acres, the principal part of which latter grant was, on the abdication and forfeitures of King James, sold to Alderman Eccles of the city of Dublin. The newspapers of 1787 speak of the iron mills of Ballybough, as furnishing spades, shovels, and other implements of husbandry, likewise a variety of culinary utensils, equal to any theretofore imported. The same authorities mention how successfully the manufacture of white flint glass was carried on here, by an opulent company, while plate glass for coaches was made and polished near the North Strand, and another glass house in that vicinity exported services to Cadiz.

The railway, after clearing the two arches before mentioned, runs over the estuary, at an elevation of about thirty feet above the level of the sea, on a solid embankment, in the middle of which an elliptic stone arch, also of forty feet span, is opened, for

the exit and communication of the Tolka and the sea, the line commences gradually to rise thence towards Killester. On reaching the Clontarf road, which is the north boundary of the estuary, half a mile of sea has been traversed, and, though much protected by the North Bull and Pigeon House jetties, there are times, when the junction of spring tides and easterly winds produces a heavy swell here, but the water is never more than eight feet deep, and, as a protection against the injurious effects of the waves, the slopes of the embankment are substantially paved with heavy blocks of black stone laid closely together. The course of the line throughout the estuary, is contiguous and parallel to the sequestered but beautifully situated demesne of

MARINO,

once the favourite retreat of that honest and dignified Irish patriot, Lord Charlemont; where, in a mansion of his own erection, he collected around him the works of ancient and modern art, and passed, in literary amusement and refined society, the meridian and close of his life. The handsome gateway, which is seen from the line, leads into a demesne of about 200 acres, gently sloping to the sea, and tastefully improved and planted. The house presents a square of Portland-stone, and has, in its day, been the shrine of some of the richest treasures of sculpture and painting, that the most critical research over Europe could select; while the temple, or ca-

sino, from the design of Sir Richard Chambers, and of which there is a drawing in Walker's *Hibernian Magazine* for 1772, presents in view, an image of what Lord Charlemont had seen in the edifices of the accomplished Pericles. This nobleman, it will be remembered, was one of the first honoured with the order of St. Patrick, the Principal of the Committee of Dilettanti, the first President of the Royal Irish Academy, and, above all, the temperate commander of the Irish Volunteers. Here, in this his hospitable villa, Lucas conceived, and was encouraged in the efforts of his ardent and disinterested patriotism; here, Grattan, who first entered Parliament in 1775, under the auspices of the Earl, and as representative of the borough from which he derived his title, in this, the Tusculan villa of his patron, Grattan, after astounding the senate with the splendour of his eloquence, delighted the literary circle with the attainments of his genius, or the play of his fancy. Here Curran has flashed, over the convivial board, the dazzling coruscations of his wit; and here Flood has been seen in all the verdure of his leafy honours, "that tree of the forest that was too great to be transplanted." This, in a word, was the resort of every native or stranger, whom taste or talent could make worthy of its enjoyment.

Leaving this scene of intellectual interest, the railway having crossed the estuary, surmounts the Clontarf road, which runs beneath, at a very oblique angle, by a skew bridge of two arches, each of fifty

feet span, and built also of black stone, with granite rings and coping. Nothing, even in the whole course of this picturesque line, can exceed the beauty of the views that are here, at its first station, commanded, of the country and the bay at right, and of the city and suburbs at left, while, from the high road below, the vistas through the arches afford pleasing sections of the scenery. Close at the north side is an establishment for bathers, erected on the ruins of a charter school, of which Lord Harrington, when Viceroy of Ireland, laid the first stone in 1748. Next beyond it, sloping to the water, is

CLONTARF,

the Marathon of Irish history, and, if it has been rightly observed, that patriotism should grow warmer on those plains of Marathon, he were not worthy of the name of Irishman, who would not feel electrified by the moral sublimity of this historic ground, where, by one magnificent effort of national retribution, the oppressors of his country were for ever crushed, and, although some few of their race were allowed to remain as merchants, in the towns which they had "buildded with blood, and established by iniquity," and where, on the English invasion, the rights of their descendants continued to be protected by special reservations, down to the fourteenth century, yet never again were they a dominant people in this country. To the tourist of this line, it may be further remarked, as a circumstance of singular

interest, that, while thus at its commencement, it skirts the field which so witnessed the disenthralment of Ireland from the warfare of Danish despotism; at the close it brings him to the river, and almost in view of what may be termed the Waterloo of Ireland, the ground, on which the destinies of the British Empire were, in nearly seven centuries afterwards, decided, and Ireland relieved from devoted vassalage to a feeble, infatuated, and ungrateful dynasty.

This rich and well-cultivated parish, although heretofore thinly inhabited, has, from the assurance of prosperity which the railway will bring with it, been rapidly increasing its buildings along the shore. The church, which is built near the site of an ancient commandery of Knights Templars, is an humble unpretending edifice, but contains some monuments, and in its graveyard many tombstones and family vaults of genealogical interest. At the near side of the cemetery, Mr. Vernon, the lord of the manor, has erected a castellated mansion, remarkable for the sumptuousness of its interior decorations. It is distinctly seen towering from a grove of trees at right. Near it is the chapel of the parish, a spacious and well-built structure; and the surrounding green lanes are a favourite resort for the citizens of Dublin. Opposite that point of the parish called Dollymount, an extensive causeway has been erected by the Ballast Board, with the object of deepening the harbour. It stretches far into the sea, crossing the lower

extremity of the North Bull, a long strip of insulated sandy ground, partly green, which extends thence towards the hill of Howth; and off the Sheds of Clontarf, so called from wooden buildings that had been there used for curing fish, is a profitable oyster-bank.

The history of Clontarf, situated as it was, in the centre of the ancient denomination of Moynealta, connects itself with the highest legends of the bardic age, wherein it is alleged, that Partholanus, one of the earliest invaders of Ireland, closed his adventurous life on this then barren shore; other authorities, however, assign Howth as the place where he and all his followers fell victims to the plague. It subsequently obtained the Irish name of Clontarf, i. e. the plain of the bull, from the fanciful appearance of the large sand bank above alluded to in front of it, and which still retains that appellation in the English tongue. In 550, a church was founded here, and dedicated to St. Congal, the abbot, founder also of the noble monastery of Bangor, and of other religious houses; and in 1014, Brian Boroihme, the justly celebrated monarch of Ireland, in the eightieth year of his age, here achieved that victory over the Danes before alluded to. The glories of the triumph were, however, deeply darkened, by the fall of this good old king, the most splendid ornament of the O'Brien race, the lawgiver and the hero, the Alfred and Epaminondas of his country. At the close of the engagement, he was sacrificed by a flying party of the enemy to the manes of their fallen comrades. In

1171, when Roderic O'Connor invested the city of Dublin with his auxiliaries, Mac Dunleve, the petty prince of Ulster, had his station here, as had O'Rourke of Brefny (the abduction of whose wife was the alleged inducement of the English invasion), in the subsequent memorable attack upon Milo de Cogan. Immediately afterwards, Hugh de Lacy, the great Palatine of Meath, conferred upon his favourite, Adam de Phepoe, one knight's fee in the vicinage of Dublin, comprising Clontarf, upon which, De Phepoe is said to have built a castle; while, in the service of religion, the commandery (as religious houses attached to military orders were more commonly called), was founded here for Knights Templars, dependant upon Strongbow's splendid establishment of the order at Kilmainham. It was liberally endowed by private munificence, and a grant by Nicholas Taaffe, of all his lands of Killergy, to the Master of the Templars here, is yet of record. In 1311, on the suppression of this order, their manors at Clontarf, &c., were granted to Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, but the religious edifices continued to be upheld as royal houses, and numerous records occur of salaries and liberates paid from the treasury, to the janitor, the butler, &c., of "our Royal House of Clontarf." A large venerable mulberry tree, in a garden in the town, is thought to mark the vicinity of the commandery, even yet surviving, by five centuries, the pious hands that planted it. In 1377, in pursuance of the royal mandate, seve-

ral books, the property of certain clergymen, whose influence was reported to be exercised to the prejudice of the Crown, were seized in the harbour of Clontarf, where they had been shipped. About the same time, this manor, according to the Pope's decree, passed into the possession of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who, on the suppression of the Templars, had succeeded at Kilmainham. In 1395, a state warrant issued in aid of the laws against absenteeism, to arrest and detain all ships "in the water of Clontarf," destined to convey passengers to England. Some readers may be surprised, to find absenteeism an object of such early legislative interference, but the "census emigrationis" of the Romans was introduced in the system of Irish taxation, almost a century previous to the above date; yet from that period has it continued to be, as it was even before, the paramount evil of Ireland, alike destructive of the strength, the rank, the revenue of the island, the industry and comforts of its peasantry, the influence of its great proprietors, and above all, the patriarchal, friendly, and social relations, that should flow from the recurrence of mutual benefits amongst all classes of the people. In 1413, Sir John Stanley landed at Clontarf, specially delegated for the maintenance of a rapacious and oppressive government, which terminated in a few months with his life. In 1440, William and James Fitzgerald, the brothers of Thomas Fitzgerald, then Grand Master of the Hospitallers, having waylaid the

Lord Deputy on the marches or borders of the Pale, near Kilcock, slain several of his suite, and imprisoned himself, the king directed, that the manors of said Thomas, and amongst them the manor of Clontarf, should be sequestered; the interdict was, however, taken off, when he had exculpated himself from any participation in the offence. In 1534, Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, styled the Silken Lord, here defeated the first detachment of the royal forces that was sent against him. The inhabitants of Clontarf, at this time, enjoyed a remarkable license to fish with their boats, within the liberty and bounds of Carlingford, without any payment, as of tithes or other profits, to the Crown or to the Vicar of Carlingford. On the suppression of the splendid establishment at Kilmainham, its last Prior, Sir John Rawson, who had been, at different periods, Lord Treasurer of Ireland, was, in 1541, on surrendering the possessions of his house to the Crown, created Viscount Clontarf, in right of which dignity he sat in the Parliament of that year. The King's letter, on this occasion, to his Irish Deputy, Sir Anthony Saint Leger, is of record. It is dated at Windsor, and expresses satisfaction at the peaceful state of the land; approves of the Deputy's administration; advises him of a remittance of £200 in "harp-groats;" hopes that future expenses may be reduced; approves of his design to construct and repair towers against O'Connor and the Tooles; gives directions concerning a Parliament to be summoned forth-

with ; confirms to the Prior of Kilmainham his pension of 500 marks ; creates him Viscount Clontarf, with an additional annuity of £10 ; directs that the site of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin, be delivered to John Travers, Master of the Ordnance, to hold during his continuance in that office, &c.

The principal part of the possessions of the priory here, were, in 1600, granted to that Sir Geoffrey Fenton, whom Queen Elizabeth had appointed Irish Secretary of State, with the express object of watching over the actions of her Viceroy, Sir John Perrot. On the failure of Sir Geoffrey's male line, the manor of Clontarf passed, through a female, to George King ; who, having been one of the gentlemen of the Pale that assembled at Swords, and abetted the proceedings of the insurgents of 1641, was attainted, when this manor, with Hollybrooks and the island of Clontarf, was granted to John Blackwell, a particular favourite of Oliver Cromwell, who assigned his interest therein to John Vernon, of whom the present proprietor is heir male. In 1675, although the manor of Clontarf was of such high antiquity, the King further enlarged its jurisdiction, tenures, and courts, with a grant of royalties (royal mines excepted), power to empark three hundred acres, with free warren, and privilege of holding two fairs, one on the 10th of April, and the other on the 6th of October, with customs, &c. In the following century, considerable controversy and litigation arose between the Vernon family and

the Corporation of Dublin, the latter claiming title, as within their franchises, to a portion of the strand called Crab-Lough, between the shore of Clontarf and the North. Bull, while the former maintained, that the said tract of strand, comprising 195 acres, which they called the pool and island of Clontarf, was parcel of their manor; the Corporation, however, in their perambulations, crossed from Ballybough bridge to Clontarf, and so to the Sheds of Clontarf, thenceforward to the mill of Ratheny, from which they proceeded northwards 130 perches, to a little brook, which they asserted was the termination of the city liberties in that direction. In 1749, the charter school before alluded to, was opened for one hundred boys, the King's representative having laid the first stone of the edifice; but this, and other establishments of the same class, having excited national hostility, and, consequently, prolonged anti-religious differences in Ireland, were, within the last few years, wisely suppressed. In 1756, a lead mine on the adjacent strand was discovered, and worked, but the overflowings of the tide have hitherto prevented the prosecution of the undertaking.

South of Clontarf, at this point of observation, the beautiful bay of Dublin opens, intersected with the long line of the South Wall, which projects itself into the sea to the distance of about three Irish miles, and bounded beyond this line, at its remoter shore, with the villages of Irishtown (whose ancient church is a prominent object), Sandymount, Merrion,

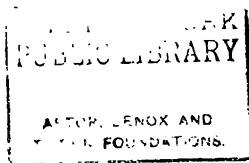
(an ancient and long transmitted inheritance of the Fitzwilliam family, where, in 1565, Sir Henry Sydney, after landing at Dalkey, sojourned with Thomas Fitzwilliam, on the day previous to his solemn entry as Viceroy into Dublin, and which, in 1665, was the seat of the Earl of Tyrconnel, on whose forfeiture, it was granted to the Corporation), Booters-town, Frescati (once the favourite residence of the unfortunate Lord Edward Fitzgerald), the Black Rock, Monkstown, with a new church of grotesque and miscellaneous architecture (this latter locality was once the country seat of the revolutionary General, Edmund Ludlow, and the scene of sundry state transactions during the Commonwealth), Kingstown, with its noble harbour and pier, whence King George the Fourth re-embarked in 1821, and from which to Dublin the first specimen of a railway in Ireland, was opened in 1834; Bullock (at the foot of whose old castle, Thomas of Lancaster, the king's son, in 1402, landed, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as did the Earl of Sussex in 1559, in the same capacity); and lastly, Dalkey, once the principal emporium for the commerce of Ireland, and as such, defended from the freebooters of the mountains, and the pirates of the sea, by seven strongly fortified and well-manned castles; while to the Archbishop of Dublin and his successors, was committed the office of admiral, or water-bailiff, within the manor and port. In 1414, Sir John Talbot, Lord Furnival, afterwards the renowned Earl of Shrewsbury, landed at this

port of Dalkey as Viceroy of Ireland; and hence Sir Richard Edgecombe, after receiving the penitent homage and oaths of the nobility who had espoused the cause of Lambert Simnel, embarked for England. Behind these objects, a succession of marine villages, majestically ascends to the limits of the horizon,—the mountains peculiarly styled the Dublin mountains; the Three Rocks' mountain, a fine eminence, thus designated from its singular assemblages of such gigantic rocks, as no ordinary machinery is capable of raising; the gap of the Scalp; the conical masses of the great and little Sugar Loaf; the bold and irregular outlines of Bray Head; and the hills of Rochestown and Killiney.

From this point of view, the railway crosses by the Crescent, a range of houses erected on the shore in 1792, to the romantic little spot at left called the Black Quarries; then by Hollybrook, an ancient denomination, and still exhibiting a small assemblage of houses at right; and here it crosses what was the mail-coach road to Howth, when that harbour was the packet station to England, passing over it by a bridge of cast iron, of very elegant structure and appearance, with a span of fifty feet, and an open rail instead of parapet. From this bridge, a lovely retrospect of Dublin is attainable, as displayed in the annexed plate; its beautiful Custom-House, its cathedrals, its steeples, factories, mills, Nelson's monument, Aldborough house, George's church, &c., with a fine view of the bay in front, and the whole



J. E. Jones, C. L.



closed in by a noble perspective of the Dublin mountains. Proceeding hence, Donnycarney House is seen at left of the line, taking its name from a denomination, which was one of the townlands granted by Dermot Mac Murrough, before the English invasion, for the founding and endowment of the priory of All Hallows; soon after the Restoration, it was granted to the Corporation, who are now the proprietors of the fee. For a very short interval, hence, the line runs over the natural level, and soon afterwards enters the deep cutting in the townland of Killester. A great part of this excavation runs at a depth of thirty-six feet from the surface, through black limestone, lying in most unconformable and contorted strata; the labour and expense of this section was, consequently, particularly heavy, and immense quantities of gunpowder were used in blasting the rock; the total length of this excavation, from its entrance to the point of its emerging, near the village of Raheny, is about two miles, and the material taken out of it was not far short of 500,000 cubic yards, the greater part of which was carried down, by the aid of locomotive engines, to form the before mentioned embankment across the Clontarf estuary; while a great quantity of the stone quarried, was used in the several public and accommodation bridges along the line. In the course of this deep sinking, but necessarily unseen, is

ARTANE,

more anciently called Tartane, and for centuries the

estate of the family of Hollywood, or "de Sacro Bosco," having been purchased in the fourteenth century by Robert de Hollywood, then one of the Remembrancers, and afterwards a Baron of the Exchequer. In 1533, John Allen, Archbishop of Dublin, when intending to fly from the resentment of Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, then in rebellion against his king, took boat from Dublin, but, his little bark having been driven on the adjacent shore, he sought shelter in Artane, where, being discovered, he was dragged from his bed, and inhumanly murdered. This ill-fated prelate was the pupil of Wolsey, and trained up by him in political intrigue. He had served his ambitious patron as judge in his legatine court, with an assiduity and attention, neither upright nor honourable, and, though accused of misdemeanor, and dismissed from this office, he was still protected by the Cardinal, and proved his useful and active agent in the suppression of monasteries. The jealousy of Gardiner, however, effected his removal to Ireland, where his adoption of his patron's prejudices against the Geraldines led to his destruction. On the breaking out of the civil war of 1641, the castle of Artane was taken by Luke Netterville, at the head of a body of royalists, and garrisoned thereupon for the king. The church was a picturesque ruin, and long the burial-place of the Hollywood family; a great proportion of its walls has, however, been sacrilegiously appropriated to the construction of a modern edifice. The

next locality of interest which occurs, also at left, close to the line, but unseen, by reason of the deep excavations and cuttings through which it here passes, is the ruined church of

KILLESTER,

enclosing, and enclosed with elder trees, and thickly invested with ivy. This chapel, with the tithes and lands of Killester, was, at the time of the English invasion, and continued long after to be, of the possessions of the Priors of Christ Church, Dublin, who leased it to the White family, one of whom, Richard White, was, in 1373, summoned to a Great Council, as lord of Killester; from them it passed to the lords of Howth; accordingly, in 1593, Sir Nicholas, the twenty-first lord, brought to a hosting at Tara, six archers on horseback for Howth, and one for Killester; in his line the fee still continues. The manor house is a pleasing specimen of the style of such architecture; it is at present occupied by General Luscomb, and is also close to the line. At the opposite side is the demesne and house of Furry Park, formerly the seat of the Earl of Shannon, the descendant of the celebrated Sir Richard Boyle. The cutting thence is through deep and fine mould, well guarded from slips, by dwarf retaining walls, and by the ample inclination given to the upper cuttings, over which nature is again asserting her dominion, and clothing them with verdure and varied vegetation. At one point here, a beautiful occupation

bridge has been thrown over the railway ; it is of wrought iron, eighty-four feet in span, with a rise of but eighteen inches, the first of the kind ever erected. Doctor Macneill, in its construction, adopted the principle from the American bridges, where wood is the material. The mechanism of this, and the lightness and strength with which the whole is upborne, by a succession of suspension cross bars, are well worthy of inspection ; the mechanic details were worked out by the Ringsend Iron Company, Dublin. At the garden of the ancient house of Rose-vale, which stands on the right hand, the waters of a rivulet are received in an iron syphon, three feet in diameter, beautifully cast at the foundry of Messrs. Grendon and Company, of Drogheda ; through it the stream is transmitted under the railway, to its level at the opposite bank. Beyond this, at left, is the ancient townland of

COOLOCK,

which gives name to a village, parish, and surrounding barony. The parish comprises 1691 statute acres of fertile land, based on limestone and well adapted for tillage ; the church is a conspicuous object from the upper bank ; and the village chapel is a very neat and commodious edifice ; there is also a Sunday and day school ; while, within this district, four ancient raths are still distinguishable. The advowson of this benefice was, in very remote time, vested in the Baron de Nugent, by whom it was appropriated

to the Priory of Lanthony near Gloucester, whose fraternity endowed a perpetual vicarage here of their own presentation, and assigned the immediate management of it to their filial establishment at Duleek, whence it passed by patent to Garret Viscount Moore, the ancestor of the Marquess of Drogheda. The line next passes under an accommodation bridge, between Violet-hill, the handsome residence of Mr. Maconchy, crowning a verdant knoll at west, and the villa of Mr. D'Arcy at the east. Close to the latter, is the village and station of

RATHENY,

picturesquely situated amidst very old trees, on the brow of an eminence, crowned by its little church, immediately joining which may still be traced the remains of the rath, whence the townland is denominated. The land of this maritime parish is of a peculiarly fine quality, the greater portion meadow and pasture, and the arable produces excellent crops of wheat; the system of agriculture is in a very improved state, and there is neither waste nor bog within its limits. Originally a portion of this tract appertained to the priory of Christ Church, but the far greater part belonged to the abbey of the Blessed Virgin, while a section of it was granted by Earl Strongbow to John de Courcy, the celebrated chieftain, who had received from King Henry, while in Ireland, a grant of Ulster, with the politic proviso, that he should first reduce it, by the force of his arms;

and here, in the vicinity of his sworn comrade, Sir Armoricus St. Lawrence, ancestor of the lords of Howth, in the very view of those mountains of Mourne, which overlooked his future possessions, this rugged soldier assembled round him the fiery spirits whom Fitz Adelm's vice-royalty had almost frightened from their allegiance. He won their willing aid, by the promise of settlements for themselves in the unexplored regions of the North, while even the chivalrous St. Lawrence proffered his men-at-arms for the extension of his friend's possessions and power. In vain did the invidious Lord Deputy, by an arbitrary order, forbid De Courcy to prosecute the realization of the royal grant; the prohibition was slighted. Having strengthened his resources, by marrying the daughter of Gotred, King of Man, he proceeded from Ratheny, in the summer of 1182, at the head of his adventurous party, with all the bearing of chivalry, and glittering in polished armour, his white charger curvetting under him, while he inflamed yet more the hopes of his associates, by the peculiarly exciting suggestion of Merlin's then current prophecy, that a knight in such accoutrements was destined to be the conqueror of Ulster. The annals of the North, during his visitation, are the records of successful carnage; and the unwearied perseverance with which he overran that fine province, well evinces, how difficult it is to sheath the sword, when familiarized with victory; throughout it, his course was traced by ruined dis-

tricts, depopulated villages, and desecrated churches. In the beginning of the thirteenth century, Sir John de Courcy, an illegitimate son of the before mentioned Sir John, was lord of Ratheny and Kill-Barrock. This was the individual whom Walter de Lacy, lord of Meath, and Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, caused to be murdered in 1208, suspecting him to be a spy over their actions, and to have made grievous complaints against them to the king; on account of which such confusions occurred, as obliged the monarch to come over in person to Ireland, and, for the restoration of peace, to banish the De Lacys, in 1211.

Passing Violet-hill, the railway, emerging from the long and deep cutting, runs over a low embankment to the brook of Ratheny, whence a short cutting passes it, under a road (leading from that village to Coolock), at which point is a station-house; hence the line traverses a level or gently undulated country, now in shallow cuttings, again on low embankments, skirting the sea, and affording frequent beautiful vistas of coast scenery. In this section, at the right, immediately on the shore, stand the ruins of the church of

KILL-BARROCK,

anciently called by the Welch title of Llann Beachaire, as founded by Modomnoc, a saint of that country, and who, according to his biographers, first introduced bees from Anglesey into Ireland. His foundation became the votive chapel of mariners

frequenting the bay of Dublin. Its architectural appearance is not imposing, only exhibiting some circular and pointed arches, without any visible remains of a steeple or belfry; the vistas and sections of prospect, however, as framed by the arches and windows of the ruins, afford a series of views, which cannot fail to gratify the observer. This chapel, more anciently called Mone, originally belonged to the monastery of the Blessed Virgin. In the thirteenth century, the manor and lands were held by the Tuite family, by the tenure of rendering a pair of furred gloves to the king; subject to which service, they afterwards passed to the lords of Howth. In 1641, a special proclamation issued from the Castle, announcing, that "divers of the inhabitants of Clontarf, Ratheny, and Kill-barrock, had declared themselves rebels, and that, having robbed and spoiled some of his Majesty's good subjects, they had assembled thereabouts in arms in great numbers, mustering and training of their rebellious multitudes, as well at land as at sea. It was, therefore, ordered, that a party of soldiers should be sent out, to endeavour to cut them off, and to burn and spoil their houses and goods, and further, to cause their boats and vessels there to be brought up "to the new crane at Dublin, and to burn or sink such as they could not so bring up.

The railway next passes, on what may be considered a level, to a station, near the bathing and fishery town of

BELDOYLE,

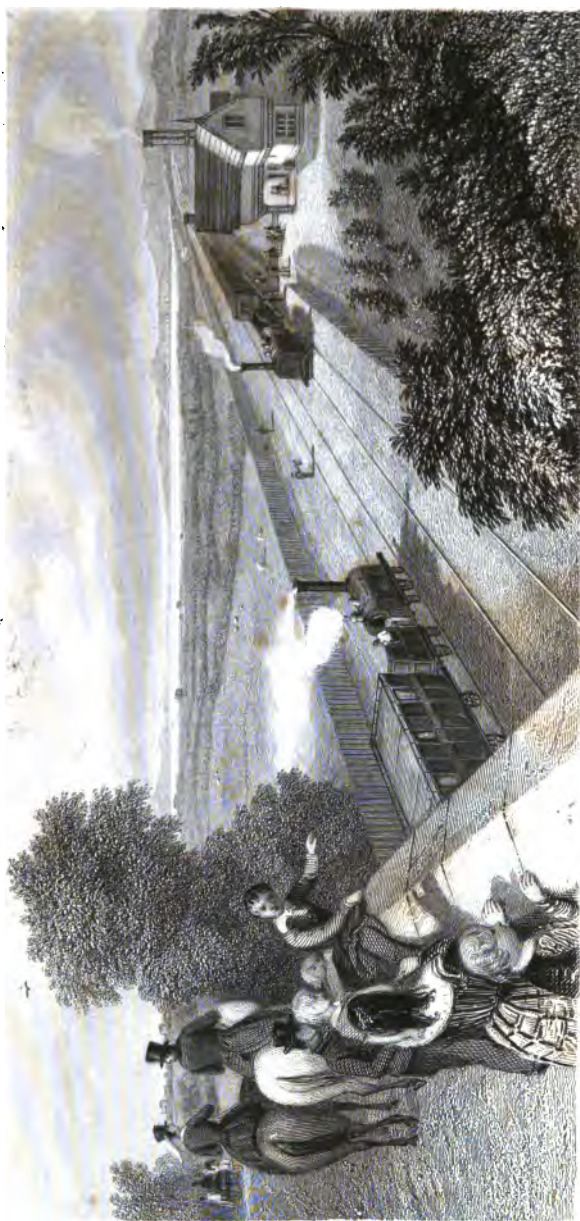
or Baldoyle, a townland which Dermot Mac Murrough, when founding the priory of All Saints, near Dublin (on whose site Trinity College now stands), assigned for its use, and such its appropriation was confirmed by Kings Henry the Second and John. In 1369, a Parliament was held here by William de Windsor, then Lord Deputy of Ireland, at which, certain exorbitant assessments and talliages were laid upon the Pale. These afterwards became the subject of popular remonstrances, and were impugned, as passed in a place where, it was represented, there were no buildings but a small chapel, and, consequently, no accommodation for the Commons convened thither, who were thus constrained the sooner to grant the subsidies sought. By an Act of Parliament passed in the 11 & 12 of Edw. IV. (not printed), the right of William, Prior of All Saints, and his convent, to wreck of the sea on the manor of Beldoyle, was confirmed, as by them enjoyed time out of mind; while another Act of the same reign (also unprinted), after reciting, that inasmuch as the inhabitants of this town had been daily damaged by the king's admirals of Ireland, who heavily amerced them, to the prejudice of the Prior, &c., of All Saints, near Dublin (at whose supplication the Act was passed), provided, that said Prior and his successors, should thenceforth be admirals of said town, without molestation. The possessions

and rights of this religious house, and amongst them Beldoyle, were subsequently granted to the Corporation of Dublin, who are still the proprietors thereof. In 1793, the Reverend Walter Blake Kirwan was rector of Beldoyle, and in 1831, a scarcely less celebrated preacher, though of a different style and creed, the Reverend Michael Bernard Keogh, died, the Roman Catholic pastor of this parish. The chapel of Beldoyle, with its portico, turret, and dome, and its school rooms attached, contributes much to embellish the village.

From the bridge, carried over the railway at the last-mentioned station, before it enters Beldoyle, a most enchanting panorama, the subject of the annexed view, is commanded, embracing many of the scenes before alluded to, as surrounding the bay, with the additions of Sutton, Howth, and Ireland's Eye, scenes which demand their respective notices.

SUTTON

is a denomination lying on the western side of the hill of Howth, having one of the oyster beds that supply the metropolis; muscles are also taken in quantities here. A bed of dolomite, that sweeps round the base of the promontory, has been quarried and exported hence, some few years since, to England, where the magnesian earth was extracted from it, and converted into a series of valuable preparations. Potter's clay also abounds in this townland, and the black oxide of manganese is discovered

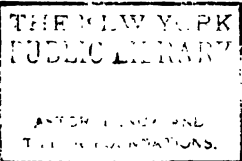


1850

1850

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here, in the immediate vicinity of the magnesian limestone. It has been raised, and prepared for sale in considerable quantity, and sold to the manufacturers of the bleaching salt of lime, and of the different other more recently fabricated compounds, of which chlorine is the active element.

HOWTH,

which succeeds in the aforesaid prospect, is (as its Irish radix *oip* signifies), an elevated promontory, connected with the mainland by a sandy isthmus, and forming the northern entrance of Dublin bay, over which it is elevated 578 feet above low water mark. Its geological formation may be considered, as chiefly consisting of clay slate and quartz rock, frequently alternating; porphyry being found on the southern side, and limestone on the western, near the base. Iron, copper, and lead ores, have also been found here, with manganese, and arsenic pyrites(*a*). The sides of the promontory are rocky and precipitous, and are considered to present somewhat of the appearance of a miniature Gibraltar. It was anciently called Ben-na-dair, from the abundance of venerable oaks that then waved over its declivities, and religiously shadowed one of those pagan altars, or cromlechs, that, after the revolutions of centuries, yet remains near the castle. Near it is also the

(*a*) See very fully, on the Geology of Howth, Stephens's Mineralogy, p. 40, &c.

present manorial residence of the Earls of Howth, a long battlemented structure, flanked by square towers at each extremity, and approached by a large flight of steps, leading to a spacious hall furnished with sundry relics of antiquity, while in the saloon are some fine portraits. On an eminence near this castle is a neat parish church, but the principal object of architectural attraction here is the harbour, for the formation of which a series of Acts of Parliament have been passed. It embraces an area of fifty-two English acres, enclosed by two piers, the western having a causeway of forty feet in breadth, and the eastern a carriage way of fifty feet. This noble work was effected at the cost of £300,000, a considerable portion of which was incurred by raising rocks from the bottom of the basin; yet was the location so injudicious, that, while it never could admit vessels of large burden or great draught, according to some engineers, had it been constructed but one furlong eastward of its present situation, the navy of Great Britain might have been moored within it, sheltered from the prevailing winds, in a safe anchorage of a depth of water uninfluenced by ebb or flow of tide. But even this work, so dearly purchased, has been already superseded, and another generation may traverse the mossy causeway, and vainly seek the spot where the only monarch landed, who came with professions of peace to Ireland:

“Atque, ubi portus erat, tunc siccum litus.”

It is rapidly filling with mud and sand, and now

but accommodates the wherries and smacks employed in the fisheries. The town consists of a single street, running along the edge of the cliff, with a congregation of huts bending down the declivity to the water. In the centre of this community a spacious chapel has been recently erected, to which school houses are attached. At the highest point over the sea appear the venerable remains of its ancient abbey, one of the few specimens of Gothic pointed architecture which the county of Dublin affords. In its southern aisle is the tomb of Christopher, the twentieth Lord of Howth, who died in 1589. A wild bridle road guides the visitor hence to the summit of the hill, where the old lighthouse had been erected, and whence a prospect of unrivalled magnificence presents itself. The descent from this point to the new lighthouse abounds with enchanting landscapes, if the term can be properly applied to prospects, which the sea so magnificently enhances: such splendid sites, it may be expected, will be, ere long, diademed with villas, the shores affording, in several places, the greatest facility for bathing, constant water, and a fine gravelly beach of easy descent, and retired from public intrusion; while in others they are indented with creeks, or worn into gloomy caverns, in which seals and porpoises may be often seen rolling their unwieldy bodies.

The historic associations connected with Howth are also of much antiquarian and historic interest.

At the earliest period of the Christian era, a battle was fought here between Conall Cearnach, one of the Knights of the Red Branch, and the King of Leinster, in which the latter was slain. Immediately afterwards, when Ireland was the sanctuary and refuge of those who fled from Roman tyranny, Howth was the residence of the celebrated Crimthan, who, according to the Irish annals, crossed the sea to stay the march of Roman oppression and vindicate the rights of the expatriated wanderers. The chronicles of this country deservedly extol his achievements on this occasion. In 819, the Danes devastated this district, and their descendants are, in history, supposed to have been found there by the first English invaders, when Sir Armoricus Tristram and Sir John de Courcy, before mentioned, at the head of a chosen band, landed at Howth, and there encountering the inhabitants, defeated them in a signal engagement at the bridge of Evora, the mountain stream that falls into the sea at the north side of Howth, opposite "Ireland's Eye." Sir Armoricus lost seven relatives on this occasion, but acquired the lordship of Howth and the designation of St. Lawrence, in honour of the day of the battle, being the festival of that saint. The sword, with which he fought, is still triumphantly exhibited, amongst the relics at the castle of his noble descendant. In 1348, the remarkable pestilence, that devastated Ireland, first broke out at Howth and Dalkey, it almost depopulated Dublin and Drogheda;

in the former alone, from August to Christmas, 14,000 persons perished. In 1380, Edmund de Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster, landed here as Viceroy of Ireland, and in 1427, Chief Baron Cornwallsh sailed hence to advise the King on the state of Ireland, being allowed 6s. 8d. per day for his expenses while employed upon that mission. In 1449, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, father of Edward the Fourth, landed at Howth as Lord Lieutenant, and his government of Ireland was a short but cheering interval(*a*). In 1451, Sir Christopher, the fourteenth Baron of Howth, was empowered by Act of Parliament to search for a mine within his lordship, as well for tin as for lead ore, and to receive the profits thereof to his own use, during the term of three years, subject to the annual rent of 6s. 8d., if it should be found. Sir Nicholas St. Lawrence, the sixteenth Lord of Howth, was steadily attached to the House of Lancaster, and, during the political convulsion that shook Ireland from its allegiance, in the cause of Lambert Simnel, was one of those who zealously maintained King Henry's title and interest; accordingly, when the rebellion raised on that account was quelled, the King presented to this nobleman, as a tribute for his loyalty and services, 300 pieces of gold, with a patent confirmatory of all his inheritance. Sir Nicholas dying in 1526, was interred in the abbey here. In 1534, "the Silken

(*a*) See History of Drogheda, vol. ii. pp. 148-9.

Lord, in the celebrated Geraldine rebellion, planted his artillery on this promontory, and from its commanding height, cannonaded the vessels that were sent with English forces to subdue him. About the year 1575, occurred the traditional incident, which associates the name of Grace O'Mailley (better known as Grana Weal) with this place. Returning from her visit to Queen Elizabeth, she debarked on this shore, and, proceeding to the castle, found it closed at dinner time, a dereliction of Irish hospitality, which she considered so flagrant, that, without further notice, she carried off the young heir of the house, conveyed him to her ship, and hence a prisoner to her own castle in the county Mayo; nor was he restored, until his father entered into an express stipulation, that his gates should never again be shut at such an hour. A painting in one of the castle chambers is supposed to represent this domestic event. In 1580, Lord Grey landed at Howth as Viceroy of Ireland, as did in 1593, Sir William Russell, youngest son of the Earl of Bedford, whereupon, say the Chronicles, "the Lord of Howth claimed him and his suite as his guests for that evening." Sir William was met on the following day, on his approach to Dublin, by the Council and Corporation, who conducted him, amidst the acclamations of the people, to the castle. There, however, he refused to accept the sword, until he received, under the hands of the Council, a full account of the state of the kingdom. In 1599, Lord Mount-

joy, as Lord Deputy for the prosecution of the war in Ulster, and Sir George Carew, as Lord President of Munster, landed here, and spent the night of their arrival in the castle of Howth. In 1641, when the Lords of the Pale proposed to establish a naval armament for the security of the coasts of Ireland, and to institute an order of knighthood for its chief officers, to whom houses were to be assigned in every province, with suitable equipments for each, Howth was the station assigned for those of the province of Leinster. In 1662, the great Duke of Ormond, having returned from his retirement in France, landed here as Lord Lieutenant over the country, in whose affairs he had so long taken an important and active interest. In 1690, King William is said to have slept here, and the chamber of the royal slumber is still identified and maintained in the order of the occasion. About the year 1754, a lead mine was discovered here, which promised to be productive; and in 1807, was laid the first stone of the pier before alluded to, where, in 1821, King George the Fourth landed on the occasion of his visit to Ireland. Immediately off Howth lies the little island, denominated

IRELAND'S EYE.

It is of a pyramidal form, and composed chiefly of quartz rock, which, like that in Howth, exhibits phenomena of contortions in great variety and distinctness, the quartz being interstratified with schis-

tose rocks of different colours, rendering, by their contrast, the curvatures of the beds very apparent. The rocks and banks, some of which are wrought into the form of arches by the action of the sea, produce many curious medicinal plants, and their botanic resources, in every other department, are equally rich. Rabbits abound on the island; and, in reference to its ornithology, the cross-bill (*loxia*), a bird which destroys pines and fir trees, has been seen upon it occasionally, as has also the *columba rupicola* or rock pigeon, and, in more remote ages, the island has been the resort of a noble breed of goshawks, that used to build among its rocks; they were in high esteem with falconers, being flown at cranes, pheasants, partridges, and wild geese; their habit of preying on the latter is thought to be the origin of their name. On the south side of this island are the ruins of a small but very ancient chapel, founded, according to tradition, in the sixth century, by St. Nesson, who, in this sequestered sanctuary, is said to have closed the evening of a well-spent life, in abstinence and prayer.

From the position, which commands the views thus detailed, the railway proceeds still on a level to Maine, in view of

BALGRIFFIN,

an ancient townland at left, which gives name to a parish justly characterized as a corn district. King Henry the Fifth granted it in 1418, to Sir Thomas

Talbot, brother of the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, during the minority of one of the Burnell family, who were territorial lords of the district. In 1500, King Henry the Seventh committed the custody of the whole county of Dublin to Robert Burnell of Balgriffin, as Sheriff during pleasure, but, on the attainder of his line, this manor was granted to the Earl of Tyrone. Its castle was subsequently, for a time, the residence of Richard Earl of Tyrconnel. At the same side, and close to this locality, is seen, on a commanding eminence, the venerable church of

ST. DOULOGH,

a most ancient structure, possessing a stone roof, in accordance with the style of the old Saxon churches, but approximating in all its windows to the pointed form. It is forty-eight feet long by eighteen wide, and has a double stone roof, the outer which covers the building, and the inner; a small chamber, dimly lighted, occupies the space between these, while in the centre of the building rises a low broad tower, with graduated battlements, on which had been erected, within the last few years, an incongruous and disfiguring spire, lately taken down. At the entrance of the lane, that leads from the main road to the church, are the stone basement and socket of one of those ancient crosses, which once marked the *croceæ* or cross-lands, "*ex parte* Fingal;" and outside the churchyard is a well, dedicated to St. Ca-

therine, and enclosed in an octagonal building, with a groined roof of stone; the interior is circular, having the well in its centre, and was formerly decorated with scriptural paintings. The lands of the parish of St. Doulogh are of good quality, and, from their elevation, command extensive and beautiful views of the sea and southern mountains. The roads, by which the line is in this parallel intersected, in some instances surmount the railway with arches and embanked approaches, while others, according to the necessities of the level, run, as before, underneath it. From Maine, a cutting conducts it to the hamlet of

PORTMARNOCK;

whence, proceeding on a level, a lovely extent of sequestered rural scenery opens at either side, the village and church of Portmarnock being in more immediate contiguity. Henry the Second, during his sojourn in Dublin, granted this denomination to the abbey of the Blessed Virgin in Dublin, which endowment was confirmed by the Pope in 1189. The shore hence under Carrick-hill is of a character, that has acquired for it the appellation of the velvet strand; nor is it less remarkable for the beautiful views it affords, and the countless varieties of shells to be found all over it. On the grange of Portmarnock, at left of the line, is an ancient fort, about thirty-six feet in diameter; and hereabouts, a view may be caught of the handsome chapel of Kinsaly, and the

historic and picturesquely situated hill of

FELTRIM,

for centuries the residence of the Fagan family, now crowned with a large windmill, that forms a very conspicuous object from every direction. In the reign of Elizabeth, when the unfortunate Earl of Desmond was a prisoner of state in Dublin Castle, his health requiring country air, the custody of his person was committed to Christopher Fagan of Feltrim, who nobly informed the government, that as his guest, the Earl was most welcome to entertainment at his house, but that he should never become his gaoler. Desmond, in such liberal guardianship, was permitted to walk abroad on his parol, a privilege which he abused, and effected his escape into Munster, where, entering soon after into open rebellion, he was treacherously murdered by some of his own followers. The family residence here, is also said to have received the unfortunate James the Second, in his flight from the Boyne, and the chamber was at no very remote period confidently shown, where he passed the weary hours of one wretched night.

Broomfield succeeds at east, beyond which, on the rocky shore, stands the small gloomy castle called Roebuck Wall, or Rob's Wall, as having been erected by a descendant of Roebuck de Bermingham. On the sands hereabouts, the sea reed or bent grows plentifully. About seven miles and a half from Dublin, the railway enters the hill of Ma-

lahide, when it runs upwards of a mile through a deep excavation, of much of the same quality of calp rock, as it encountered before at Killester, and in some places nearly forty feet below the surface of the ground. It is calculated, that not less than ninety tons of gunpowder have been used in clearing this pass. Just as the railway approaches the town of Malahide, it is crossed by the high road from Dublin thither, which here runs over a handsome oblique arch of red brick, with neatly cut facings, ring course, and coping, of a fine white stone, procured from Milverton quarry; the span is thirty feet, and the arch is surmounted by an ornamental balustrade of cast metal. From the station beside this arch, the trains are at once swept into the presence of a fine expanse of sea, and the healthful, pleasingly situated, and thickly populated village of

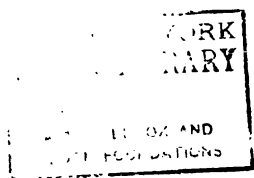
MALAHIDE,

for centuries the lordship or manor of the truly noble family of Talbot. The present inheritor, Lord Talbot de Malahide, inhabits the castle, which is adjacent to the town, and an object eminently worthy of the tourist's notice, as is the abbey, of the antiquarian's. The lower story of the castle, consisting of servants' offices, &c., is vaulted, and entered by a gothic doorway, while the rooms above are approached by spiral stone stairs, leading into a striking antique apartment, lighted by a pointed window of stained glass; the wainscoting of this room is of



W. P. Adams del.

J. P. Jones sculp.



Irish oak, that has now acquired the sombre tint of ebony, and is divided into compartments, ornamented with sculpture from Scriptural history. Adjoining this room is the saloon, a spacious apartment, containing some good paintings, particularly a valuable little picture, once an altar piece belonging to Mary Queen of Scots, which represents the nativity, adoration, and circumcision, and was painted by Albert Durer; a portrait of the Duchess of Portsmouth, mistress of Charles the Second, fondling a contented dove; another of her son, the first Duke of Richmond; one of King Charles the First, dancing with the Infanta of Spain at the Escorial, &c. The original moat of the castle has been softened off into an ornamental slope, planted with Italian cypresses and other evergreens, but the battlements still remain terminated at the angles by circular towers, and present an imposing front. The gardens are tastefully laid out, and the demesne beautified with groups of plantations, amongst which are some splendid old oaks, ashes, elms, horse-chesnuts, and sycamores that seem the representatives of a forest nobility, almost as ancient as that of the family by whom they were planted. Beside the castle are the venerable remains of its ancient chapel, the entrance to which is guarded by two magnificent sycamores. The form, which this edifice presents, is that of a nave and chancel or choir, divided from each other by a spacious gothic arch, about the centre of the building; the aisle measures sixteen yards by seven,

the chancel eleven by six and a half ; what remains of the east windows is composed of mullions, and other divisions of tracery, of the perpendicular style in architecture, finely interwreathed with ivy. The walls had originally embattled parapets ; the interior is strikingly shaded with venerable chesnut trees, that, in their season of foliage, cast a still more sombre interest over the ancient monuments they shadow. The soil of the parish of Malahide rests upon mountain limestone, and the quarries, which are of black, grey, and yellow hues, afford numerous organic remains. On the south side of the high lands, contiguous to the sea, lead ore has been discovered. Malahide has acquired an ancient celebrity for its oysters, and likewise supplies excellent cockles, while the strand abounds with marine shells, and sea reeds. The town is airy, and cleanly built, with a well of remarkably fine water in its centre. It has some trade in the exportation of meal and flour, and in the importation of coals from Whitehaven and Scotland.

In 1174, Richard de Talbot, having accompanied Henry the Second to Ireland, obtained a grant of Malahide, part of which, Malahide-beg, he soon afterwards leased to the monks of Mary's Abbey, and his son Reginald confirmed the demise. In 1315, Richard Talbot, of Malahide, was Sheriff of Dublin, after which, he signalized himself in the wars against Edward Bruce, but was, with other noblemen and gentlemen, treacherously murdered at Ballybragan, in

the county Louth, in 1329. In 1475, King Edward confirmed the title of the Talbot family here; and in 1488, Sir Richard Edgecombe, when he came to take oaths of allegiance from those, who had espoused the cause of Simnel in Ireland, landed at Malahide, "and there a gentlewoman called Talbot received him, and made him right good cheer;" and the same day at afternoon, the Bishop of Meath and others came to Malahide aforesaid, well accompanied, and fetched the said Sir Richard to Dublin, and at his coming, the Mayor and substance of the city received him at the Black Friars' Gate, at which Black Friars the said Sir Richard was lodged. In 1639, Lord Strafford sought to wrest from Richard Talbot, then the inheritor of Malahide, the admiralty of its port, and other his valuable franchises; but, on his pleading the ancient charters under which his family had so long inherited, the Court gave judgment against the Crown, and Strafford's designs were on this occasion frustrated. In 1649, John Talbot, the son and heir of said Richard, having, in the wars of 1641, embraced that side, to which misguided loyalty and ill requited enthusiasm had hurried the gallant and respectable gentry of Ireland, shared with them the consequences of one ruinous national attainder. He was outlawed, and his castle of Malahide, with five hundred acres of land, was, about this year, granted to Miles Corbet, the regicide, soon after which, it is believed that Oliver Cromwell took up his abode for a short time

here. Corbet continued its resident proprietor for an interval of seven years, during which he was Chief Baron of the Irish Court of Exchequer, and is characterized as, in other respects, "a man of very tender conscience, and of an holy life and conversation, and that as well in his greatest prosperity as in his adversity." After the Restoration, Corbet, having been outlawed, took shipping for the continent from this port; he was, however, subsequently taken and executed as a regicide at Tyburn, while, by the Act of Explanation, John Talbot of Malahide was restored to all his lands and estates, as same had been held in 1641. From Malahide the railway is carried boldly over another estuary, a mile and a quarter in width, by means of an embankment taken from the deep cuttings of its previous course; the depth of sea, through which it here passes, is nine feet at low water, a great proportion of the estuary being then dry; the water is, however, subject to rise twenty feet at spring tides, leaving the general height of the rail above high water mark at eight feet; the sides of the embankment are protected by a strong stone slope facing, which extends with a gentle inclination for a considerable distance into the sea, and is yet further fortified with groins and breakwaters. On the inner side, the slope of the pavement is not so elongated, but the work is there also defended from the influence of ebbing tides, by strong stone pitching. This embankment is divided in the centre, to permit the ebb and flow of the

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tidal waters, and over that space the trains are conducted by means of a magnificent viaduct of timber, solid and firmly set on piles consisting of eleven spans, each of fifty feet in width. The waves here being occasionally much rougher than at the Clontarf estuary, the slopes are, as before suggested, considerably flatter, present a curved section to the water, and are paved with very large stones, many of them being two tons in weight, brought from the excavation in Malahide hill. The tract of the estuary, which this embankment thus partially withdraws from the influence of the sea, to the extent of nearly two miles up the country, might, and probably soon will, be proportionally reclaimed. It may be here remarked, that, while the curves between Dublin and this point, though numerous, are by no means sharp, the rates of inclination are well suited for rapid travelling, and the course hence is for several miles of length in one straight line.

Passing over this embankment also, scenery of a very picturesque character presents itself in every direction, the town of Malahide, its chapel, its splendid hotel, the woods of the castle, the church on the height and the promontory of Carrick-hill, leading observation seaward, whence it returns over Lambay, the ancient edifices of Portrane, the promontory of Portrane, and the intermediate country, thence up the stream by Lissen Hall (where Sir William Fitz William resided for some time, when he was Lord Deputy of Ireland), into the ancient,

and once borough town of

SWORDS,

situated about two miles and a half at left of the railway; its castle, chapel, church, and ivied round tower distinctly revealed.

According to the *Annals of the Four Masters*, one of the companions of Heremon raised a fortress here, called the High Rath of Swords. In 512, a church was founded here by Columb-kille, or at least dedicated to him, and to which that saint gave a valuable missal. Soon after the battle of Clontarf, the bodies of Brien Boroihme and his son Murrough, were conveyed in solemn procession hither, where they were deposited for the first night, amidst the prayers and chauntings of the fraternity; the funeral proceeded on the following day to Duleek, whence the monks of that establishment conducted the bodies to their sepulchral destination at Armagh. Swords was afterwards the seat of a rural bishopric, and still gives name to a deanery. On the foundation of the collegiate establishment of St. Patrick's, in Dublin, Swords was constituted a prebend of that church, and the manor was vested in the See of Dublin, in whose favour King John granted an eight day fair, and King James the First a weekly market in the town. In 1336, the celebrated William of Wykeham held the prebend of Swords (styled in the "*Repertorium Viride*," the "golden prebend"), together with eleven benefices in England; he was afterwards

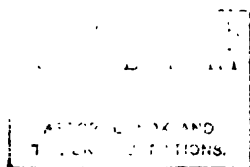
Bishop of Winchester. In 1484, Doctor Walton, Archbishop of Dublin, having voluntarily resigned his dignity, only reserved to himself for a maintenance, the manor of Swords, during his life, which reservation was confirmed to him by Act of Parliament in the following year. In 1585, Swords, as a borough, sent its first members to Parliament, and continued so to do until the Union. Here, in 1641, the first Irish army of the Pale assembled, preparatory to the commencement of that civil war, which immediately afterwards desolated Ireland. In 1642, John Taylor (an ancestor of the very ancient line still represented and resident at Swords), and George Blackney, Esqrs., the sitting members of Parliament for this borough, were expelled from the House by the Puritan party, on account of their attachment to the king's cause. At the time of the Union, the fixed compensation for the Irish boroughs was, in this case (it being of the class called potwalloping boroughs, and not private property), vested in trustees, for the purpose of educating and apprenticing the children of the humbler classes, without any religious distinction; and a handsome and commodious free school was erected in the town, at an expense of about £2000. This town still enjoys the privilege of five yearly fairs. There are, within the parish, several extensive corn mills, and it is embellished with numerous seats and villas. Of these may be particularized, Brackenstown, where is a noble rath, commanding a most extensive view;

and a spacious mansion, which, two centuries since, was the residence of Chief Baron Bysse, whom Cromwell is said to have visited during his military expedition through Ireland. Robert Molesworth, of Brackenstown, was subsequently attainted in the Parliament of James the Second, but was ennobled by George the First, with the title of Viscount Molesworth. Balheary house, the seat of Mr. Baker, is also worthy of notice for its tastefully planted demesne, and some fine pieces of interesting tapestry preserved in the saloon.

From the point of the line, where this enchanting panorama first breaks upon the eye, the embankment, having fixed its footing on Kilcreagh-point, runs over Corballis' strand, completing, in its whole extent over the estuary, a line of 2,067 yards; a pleasing view of the wooded demesne of Newbridge here opens on the left, which will be soon much improved, by the reclaiming of the intermediate strand, a work which is actually in progress, and rendered of easy accomplishment, by the erection of a sluice-gate in the railway embankment. On the sea shore, at right, appears the hamlet of Corballis, which was, with the adjoining lands, before the civil wars of the seventeenth century, successively the estate of the Barnewalls and Nettervilles. A short deep cutting from this point, brings the railway into the little village of

DUNABATE,

an Irish denomination, signifying, " the high fortress





E. B. 1877

Castle

of the bay." Here are fine remains of a church and castle, seen at left of the line; the latter is a single square, situated in the churchyard, and thickly overgrown with ivy; the former was dedicated to St. Patrick, in its present ruins are several sepulchral monuments, chiefly of the Barnewall family. The modern church is a small neat edifice, containing a handsome marble monument to the memory of Doctor Cobbe, Archbishop of Dublin, who died in 1765; the Roman Catholic chapel stands on the opposite side of the line. Immediately contiguous to the village, at left, is Newbridge, before alluded to, the handsome seat of Mr. Cobbe, a descendant of the Archbishop. In the house are several valuable paintings by the old masters, which were collected on the continent by the Rev. Mr. Pilkington, author of the Dictionary of Painters, who had been vicar of this parish; and in the demesne are the ivied ruins of Landestown castle; a little west of which is Turvey, the estate, by long inheritance, of Lord Trimlestown, and which gave title of Baron to his family. Passing Dunabate, where will be erected one of the minor stations, the railway is cut through a hill, which takes its name from that locality, when a more distinct view is obtained of

PORTRANE,

the ruins of its castle and church, the fine mansion-house, formerly the residence of Mr. George Evans,

one of the representatives of the county of Dublin in Parliament, and the lofty mausoleum erected to his memory by his widow. The house, a spacious building, in the centre of a noble demesne comprising some of the best land in the county, commands splendid views, at the land side, of nearly the whole of Fingal, while the extent of the seaward prospect is relieved and enlivened by the islands of Lambay, Ireland's Eye, the bold promontory of Howth, the projections of Portrane and Rush, and the enchanting perspective of the Wicklow mountains. There is, in the village, a new cruciform chapel, with a burial-ground attached, and between it and Dunabate, is a school house for boys and girls, erected by the late Mr. Evans, and still supported by his widow. The shore hereabout wears a bold and imposing appearance, presenting partly a surface of strand, and partly of rocks, worn into recesses and caves by the action of the tides; these rocks abound with laver, the *ulva lactuca*, and the *ulva umbilicalis*, which, when boiled in sea water, are packed in little earthen pots, and sold under the name of sloke, in Dublin, being in highest request in winter. The promontory of Portrane comprises a great variety of substrata, including red sandstone, limestone, greenstone in rugged rocks on the north side, and greywacke slate, clay-slate, green-stone slate, and a great variety of conglomerates, and minor minerals, on the coast, all curiously intermingled.

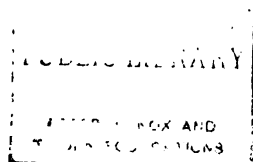
The lands of Portrane were of the ancient en-

dowment for the establishment of Christ Church, by Sitric, the Danish King of Dublin, and his grant was, after the English invasion, confirmed thereto by Earl Strongbow. Pope Clement, however, appears to have granted it to the See of Dublin, when the canons of Christ Church compromised their title, on condition of receiving one hundred rabbits yearly out of the warren of Portrane; this adjustment was further ratified by the sub-prior, in 1204, soon after which, John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, appropriated its rectory to the nunnery of Grace Dieu, on whose dissolution, it passed to successive lay patentees. In 1712, Portrane was the residence of the ill-fated Stella. Soon afterwards, Eyre Evans, Esq., M. P. for the county of Limerick, settled here, to whose descendant, in 1775, the Irish Parliament granted £500, towards the construction of a pier and quay here, to facilitate the defence of this coast from the daring smugglers that then infested it. It was accordingly erected, but is now ruinous and unfrequented.

At a short distance beyond Dunabate, the high-road from Turvey to Portrane is carried over the railway, by one of the class of bridges adopted on this line, a semi-elliptic arch, tending to an hyperbolic curve in the centre, and rising nearly vertically at the springings from the abutments; the ring stones, coping, and string course being chiefly drawn from the quarry at Milverton, hereafter mentioned; hence, on a level, it reaches

ROGERSTOWN,

an ancient, and once so frequented seaport, that, when the Corporation of Dublin, in 1438, obtained a grant of customs for forty ensuing years, those on all merchandize imported into the harbour of Rogerstown, were especially included, with a similar privilege in the ports of Howth, Beldoyle, Malahide, Portrane, Rush, and Skerries; its haven is now a tract of sand and mud, wide in its inner area, but not more than four hundred yards across, where the tide enters; the estuary, thus formed, is crossed in its centre by the embankment of the line, which is also protected by stone pavement; although ordinarily it is but little exposed to the action of the sea, for the ebb and flow of which, however, a central viaduct of timber is opened, 335 feet in length, and about fifteen in height. West of this embankment appear the groves of Corduff (Mr. Hanna's), anciently a manor of the Earls of Ormond, and for four centuries the residence of the Stanyhursts, a family long distinguished in the civil and political history of Ireland, especially in the person of Richard Stanyhurst, the author of a work, "*De Rebus in Hiberniâ gestis*," a "*Description of Ireland*," &c. On the opposite side to Corduff, is Whitestown, or, according to its more ancient orthography, Knightstown, the ancient estate of the Lords of Howth. This locality was formerly a chapelry, subservient to Lusk, and the site of the old church is still trace-





Lusk Church & Round Tower.

able in the centre of a burial ground thickly filled with tombstones of the humbler classes. The line subsequently passes through a cutting under the road from Lusk to Rush, where will be one of its stations, and, passing from which, it presently attains views of both these localities.

LUSK,

at left, exhibits singularly beautiful remains of a church and round tower. The former was built on the site of an ancient abbey, founded here by St. Macculind, at the close of the fifth century. It is built in the later English style of architecture, with a massive square embattled steeple, having beneath it a crypt or vaulted chapel; three of the angles are flanked by comparatively modern, round embattled slender towers, incorporated with the building, while, near the fourth angle, is an isolated round tower of the "veritable antique," rising to a considerable height above any other part of the building, and measuring, in the inner diameter at bottom, two yards and a half; it is in excellent preservation, and affords, by the later erection of an adjoining belfry, a very convincing evidence, that it at least was not recognized to be a fit vehicle for the transmission of sound, as the theory of some would insist it was designed. The interior of the church consists of two long aisles, separated by a series of seven pointed arches, now filled up with masonry. There are numerous sepulchral monuments within it; one of the

sixteenth century, to Sir Christopher Barnewall and his lady; another to James Bermingham of Ballogh, Esq., &c.; but it is to be regretted, that, since the erection of a new parochial church, this interesting pile has been consigned to most reprehensible desecration. In the village, which principally consists of slated cottages of one story, is a large and lofty Roman Catholic chapel, with national schools adjacent. The commons of Lusk, which comprised about 300 Irish acres, having been enclosed in 1822, were recently purchased by Mr. White from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and are now brought into cultivation. The annual traffic in grain and potatoes, between the part of this parish which lies west of the railway, with Dublin, Drogheda, and Balbriggan, is very considerable. There are in the parish, some quarries of good limestone, and fullers' earth is also found within it.

Lusk was, in the early arrangements of the Church of Ireland, a rural bishopric, and St. Maccu-lind, its founder, is accordingly, indifferently styled in the old annals, abbot or bishop; according to tradition, his remains were deposited under the before mentioned crypt, which being termed in Irish "lurca," is supposed to have given name to the locality. At the close of the seventh century, the celebrated St. Adamnan (afterwards Bishop of Iona), held a synod here, at which were present all the principal prelates of the kingdom. This place subsequently suffered much from conflagration and the

assaults of enemies. So early as the year 1178, the Pope confirmed Lusk, with its church and appurtenances, to the See of Dublin, a donation which Prince John and Pope Innocent the Third subsequently ratified. A nunnery, for ladies of the order of Aroasia, then existed here, but was subsequently translated to Grace Dieu by Archbishop Comyn, who thereupon filled it with Augustinian cannonesses, whom he amply endowed. In 1513, Edmund, fourth brother of Sir Bartholomew Dillon, being then, and theretofore, Prior of Lusk, was created Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer. In 1641, Luke Netterville and others caused proclamation to be made, in the market place of Lusk, for the holding of that general and important meeting, which afterwards took place at Swords. In a century afterwards, Doctor Stearne, the learned Bishop of Clogher, bequeathed his paternal estate of Ballogh in this parish, together with his freehold in Lusk (subject to a chiefry of £6, and an annuity of £20 for ever, to Mercer's alms-house in Dublin), to the use of Doctor Steevens's hospital.

RUSH,

at east, is a populous maritime village, long celebrated for the curing of ling, and which also affords to the metropolis large supplies of cod fish, herrings, fluke, and flat fish. The sea here also affords a plentiful supply of the *raicæ asperæ*, thornback, commonly called maiden ray, which are dried and saved

by the inhabitants, and an oil extracted from them. On the south side of the bay of Rush, and to the east of its little pier, are beds of fine compact limestone, the sandy soil over which affords abundant crops of early potatoes; while Drummanagh, another portion of the parish, near Kinure, is declared by Ruddy, to be the richest in the whole county. On this townland, formerly the property of the Barnewall family, are some curious earthworks. In the village of Rush, is a neat cruciform chapel, and at a short distance, is Kinure Park, seen from the line. This townland was once the residence of the great Duke of Ormonde, in whose ancestry the fee of Kinure, Balcony, Whitestown, &c., had been, from a period so early as the reign of Edward the First. On the Duke's attainder, it vested in the Echlin family; from whose representative, Sir Robert Echlin, it was purchased, by an ancestor of Sir Roger Palmer, its present proprietor. The mansion is spacious, and contains many good apartments, with some valuable paintings, and a selection of vases, and other antiques. The demesne, as may be supposed, commands some interesting seaward views; and within the grounds, in a solemn sequestered situation, are the ruins of the old chapel of Kinure, thickly overarched with festoons of ivy; within it is a singularly inscribed monument to George, fourth Baron of Strabane, who died in 1668, erected by his widow Elizabeth, who was the daughter of Christopher Fagan of Feltrim. In this small seaport, it may be men-

tioned, was born Luke Ryan, much celebrated in the American war, as commander of the Black Prince privateer, under commission of the French Government. This bold adventurer, whose actions at the time attracted much attention, was tried at the Old Bailey for piracy, and on four several occasions ordered for execution, but reprieved; when peace was concluded, he obtained his liberty through the mediation of the Court of Versailles, and expected to enjoy the spoils of his adventurous life, a fortune of £70,000, which he had lodged in a mercantile house in Brittany, but his wary bankers, taking advantage of his legal incapacity to sue, withheld the sum for their own use, and the daring seaman terminated his career in the King's Bench prison. It must not be omitted, that, in the attractive excursions which this railway will facilitate, may well be accounted one to the interesting island of

LAMBAY,

visible along a great portion of the line, and only three miles distant from the shore at Rush. It is of an oval form, about two miles long, and a mile and a quarter broad, comprising 1371 acres, well watered with numerous streams, and highly reclaimable. In its form it is an elevated ridge, with rocky knolls and cragged brows, strongly contrasting with the flat sandy shore of the mainland, appearing like the last off-set of the Wicklow mountains in this direction, and corresponding with the detached heights

of Ireland's Eye, Howth, and Dalkey, at the opposite extremity. Its substratum consists of conglomerated rocks of different characters, chiefly of argillaceous schist. There is also, at its northern extremity, a stratum of sandstone conglomerate, well adapted for millstones. In some places the schist is greatly contorted, while limestone and porphyry, susceptible of a high polish, are extremely abundant, alternating with, and passing into, greywacke. Archer, in his "Survey of the County Dublin," asserts that there are strong indications of coal here, as there are of copper according to others. On the island rabbits and sea fowl abound, of the latter, the Cornish chough, *corvus graculus*, with red bill and shanks, is frequently seen; also the rock pigeon, *columba rupicola*, and, according to Rutt, the *anas artica* often rests here, appearing in April and May, and departing in July and August. All about the rocky shore is a great plenty of crabs, oysters, and lobsters, the latter fishery would form a lucrative branch of industry in this country; but it is not efficiently worked. Lobsters exist in great plenty on various parts of the coast; but while, in the English markets, the principal supplies are derived from Norway, in the Irish, lobsters are scarce and dear. A species of the barilla plant grows in Lambay, and it is almost entirely encompassed by a plentiful kelp coast. There is a very curious old polygon edifice on the island, evidently constructed for defending the place, which its battlements and spikeholes com-

mand in every direction, it has been built entirely upon arches without timber: near it is a village of fishermen and labourers, for whose accommodation Lord Talbot, the proprietor of the island, caused a chapel to be erected in 1833. The harbour, which was erected by public grants, is in good repair, but does not afford shelter when the wind blows hard from any point. On the south-eastern side of the island is a spacious cavern, called the "Seal Hole," from the number of seals that breed there; and on the north side, between the cluster of rocks, called "the Tailors" and Cardurris rock, is a cavern, about 150 feet in length, with stalagmites rising from the floor, and stalactites depending from the roof. The botany of Lambay is also exceedingly interesting.

So early as the days of Pliny and Ptolemy, Lambay was known by the name of Limnus or Limni. Prince John, when he first visited Ireland, bestowed it on the see of Dublin, a grant which subsequent monarchs confirmed. In the time of Edward the Fourth, the Earl of Worcester, when Lord Deputy, was directed to build a fortress hereon. In 1551, Archbishop Allen had license to alien, with the consent of the Chapter of Christ Church, the entire island of Lambay, with its hereditaments, provided that he should, within six years, build therein a town or village for the habitation of fishermen, with a place of refuge, circumvallated with a mound, to which they might retreat in case of any sudden irruption, and also should make, within the said term,

*

a harbour for the fishermen's boats, and to this alienation the polygon edifice, before alluded to, most probably owes its origin. Queen Elizabeth granted the island in fee to Sir William Ussher, subject to a chief rent to the See of Dublin, and hither his illustrious kinsman, the celebrated Primate Ussher, retired with his family when the plague raged in Dublin. In the war of 1691, the garrison of Ballymore (county Westmeath), on its surrender to De Ginkle, were sent prisoners to this island, where they were confined until the treaty of Limerick. From the Ussher family Lambay was purchased by that of Talbot, and Lord Talbot de Malahide is now the proprietor, subject to the chief rent to the See of Dublin. A yearly "patron" used to be held at a holy well in the island, on every Trinity Sunday, until the present century.

From the Lusk and Rush station before mentioned, an alternation of embankments and cuttings conducts the railway to its summit-height, whence, about two miles to the east near the shore, is Lough Shinney, an inlet of about a quarter of a mile square, affording an excellent situation for a harbour, that would have fifteen feet within it at low water, and a fine clear bottom of sand, over an area of about forty English acres, with a superior roadstead in all but easterly winds: near it is a petrifying spring, and fine crystals are found in an adjacent cliff, while veins of copper have been discovered here, but, although stated by Mr. Griffith to be very va-

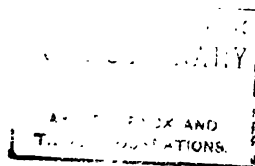
luable, they have never been worked. From the summit, parallel to Lough Shinney, a very heavy cutting leads through the rocky eminence of

BALDUNGAN,

(i. e. the town of the fortification). The deep bed of the railway here discloses various symptoms of an iron district, while the high banks on either side command most extensive prospects over sea and land. This hill was formerly crowned with a noble castle, having angular square towers, topped with watch stations. On its front were the arms of the Lords of Howth, and near it were the ruins of the castle chapel, but all these venerable evidences of olden time were consigned to dilapidation, and now scarcely a trace of their original appearance can be identified.

A considerable portion of Baldungan was, soon after the English invasion, acquired by the Knights Templars, who established a religious house there. On the suppression of that chivalrous order, Reginald de Barneval (Barnewall), became seised of the lands of Baldungan, from whose family they passed by marriage to the De Berminghams; and, in the commencement of the sixteenth century, the castle was occupied by Richard de Bermingham, whose sister and heiress, Anne, having married Sir Christopher St. Lawrence, Lord of Howth, the estate, in right of that marriage, passed to his family. In 1641, Thomas Fitz William fortified and held this castle for

the confederates of the Pale, against the Parliamentary forces. It was, however, ultimately surrendered, when a great part of the fortifications was dismantled. After that civil war Lord Howth claimed his ancient rights here, and they were accordingly decreed, on his showing that he had not participated in the troubled politics of the period. Emerging from the depths of this hill, the line bursts into scenes, that will remind the tourist of those so rich and cultivated, which a resident proprietary has made familiar all over England: to such residence the district here disclosed owes its most gratifying attractions. First, in front, appears the hitherto secluded demesne of Hacketstown, its verdant slopes and graceful plantations; beyond it opens the thriving town of Skerries, its church, its chapel, its tile-covered mills, its fleet of wherries animating the bay, its downs overhanging the water, the blue expanse of sea at its foot, and the interesting islands scattered within its immediate vicinity; the intermediate foreground most picturesquely varied with sloping furzy banks, and winding seaward valleys, the ruins of Baldungan close at west, and all these beauties consummated by the perspective of Ardgillan and Hampton. Hacketstown, it should be noticed, was an ancient estate of the monastery of Holmpatrick, which King James the First granted in fee to Thomas Chatham. It was twice the summer residence of the Marquess Wellesley, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Hence the line runs over a handsome





F. Kallipour

F. Kallipour

stone bridge (marked in the accompanying view), under which passes the road from Dublin to Skerries. At this point Milverton, the estate and residence of Mr. Woods, appears at left, celebrated for its quarries of superior building stone, and yet more for the skilful cultivation of its soil, and the no less happy management of its tenantry. At right is seen Shenicks island, comprising fifteen acres, and having at its northern extremity a Martello tower. At the point of intersection before alluded to, a station house is to be erected for the accommodation of the town and neighbourhood of

SKERRIES.

This fishing village was more anciently called Holmpatrick, implying in the Saxon "holm," its character of harbour, and certainly reported by Holinshed as one of the chief havens of Ireland. The village, or rather town, is, however, a pleasing object, and its broad street diverges into two others of equal breadth, somewhat in the shape of a Y. The comfortable appearance of its houses and inhabitants, its church (which contains some old armorial monuments to the families of Coddington, Hamilton, and Woods, while in the graveyard are other yet more ancient tombstones to the Russells and Delahoydes), its chapel (a handsome cruciform structure, erected in 1823), its schools (one of which is exclusively supported by Mr. J. Hamilton, of Sheephill, the proprietor of the fee), and its fine strand, must greatly

interest future attention. A small tambour factory has been established here, which affords employment to a great many of the surrounding females. There are also here two windmills, a watermill, and near the pier some salt works. The harbour possesses great advantages, but would require a pier on an extensive scale. Nature has already more than half formed such a work, by a rocky projection of 750 yards into the sea, with a basement from fifty to seventy yards wide, and having inside it a deep, clear, and safe anchorage, of nearly twenty feet at low water, for ships of any draught. An upper work, with a parapet and horn at the extremity, would complete this harbour; a light on the cross rock would also be of great utility. At a short distance from the coast lie the Skerries islands, three in number, and all remarkably productive of seaweed. Archer says, in his "Survey of the County Dublin," that he found lead ore and sulphur in two of these islands, and observed beautifully coloured slate rocks, particularly in that called St. Patrick's; the nearest is Red island, the next Colt, and the third St. Patrick's, while at a yet greater distance in the sea is the Rock-of-Bill. St. Patrick's contains fifteen acres, and has upon it some remains of the ancient church. It takes its name from the popular tradition, that the Apostle of Ireland, when driven to sea by the pagan inhabitants of the southern side of the bay, landed there and blessed it. In the surrounding waters the sea crab is found, and the bret (sometimes termed

the pheasant of the ocean); the large rock oyster is also abundant, while lobsters of superior quality are taken at Rock-of-Bill. This locality, indeed, and Rush, are the great depots for supplying Dublin with fish. Great quantities of lime, it may be added, are also made here.

Connected with this locality are many interesting associations. In the island of St. Patrick a monastery was founded at a very remote period, which the Danes are recorded to have burned in 797. In the ninth century, Moel Finian, Prince of Bregia (a district extending southward of the Boyne), resigning his government, became a monk in this abbey, of which he was afterwards superior, and died in 898. About the year 1120, the abbey was refounded for regular canons of St. Augustine, and dedicated, according to its first institution, to St. Patrick. In 1148, a synod was held in the island by Gelasius, Archbishop of Armagh, and the illustrious Malachy (who had resigned that high ecclesiastical dignity), as Apostolic legate. It was attended by fifteen other prelates and two hundred priests. The great object of their conference regarded the distribution of palls in Ireland, to solicit which from the Pope, they unanimously agreed in deputing Malachy; he died, however, on the journey, and it was not until 1152, that, at Cardinal Paparo's synod, Archbishops were first appointed for this country. About the year 1220, the situation of the religious house on the island having been found very inconvenient, the parochial chapel was erected on the mainland by

Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin, from which period Skerries may be considered to date its origin as a town. In 1375, a grant was made to the Corporation of Dublin, of the customs and duties of all kinds of merchandize brought for sale, as well coming as going by land or sea between Skerries and Arklow; and, in the same year, the King commanded the Prior of Holmpatrick to arrest and imprison all men-at-arms or archers, of the suite of William de Windesore, Chief Governor of Ireland, if seeking to embark thence. It appears on a Chancery roll, that in 1393, sundry malefactors assaulted the aforesaid prior, expelled him from his monastery, imprisoned him at Ballough, and held occupation, by force of arms, of the priory for a considerable time. In 1488, the prior was one of those who took the oath of allegiance before Sir Richard Edgecombe, and in 1496, on his petition to the King, stating, that the island of Lambay had on its shores various havens and creeks, in which pirates were accustomed to shelter, and that the said prior and his convent were seised in right of their house of a little island called Mellock, near Skerry, from which, when the tide was out, a dry way was open to Lambay, and that, if a fortified harbour and wall were constructed upon this, it would be of great benefit, granted license to them to construct same accordingly, and further gave to them in frankalmoigne, all customs and duties on things imported there, to the annual amount of twenty marks sterling for ever. In 1516, the Corporation of Dublin

obtained a grant of the customs of all boats plying between the Nanny water and Arklow Head; and in 1532, at a hosting which the King commanded to be held on the hill of Owenstown, the Prior of Holmpatrick was summoned to attend in right of the manor of Hacketstown. This priory was one of the earliest Irish religious houses suppressed in 1537, previous to the general dissolution. In the Parliament of the second year of Elizabeth, Thomas Fitz Williams, of Holmpatrick, was one of the knights of the shire representing the county of Dublin, while his father-in-law, the celebrated Chief-Baron Finglas, then resident at Westpalstown, was the other. In 1575, a great plague having broken out in Dublin, Sir Henry Sidney landed at Skerries as Lord Deputy of Ireland, as did Sir Oliver St. John in 1616, while in 1578, Sir Thomas Fitz William, of Baggot's-rath and Merrion, had a grant of the monastery of Holmpatrick, with its possessions, therein fully detailed, including one watermill, one windmill upon Chanon-hill, four islands by the haven of Skerries, certain premises in the hamlet of Barnageera, two messuages, six cottages, 144A., and the customs of the farmers thereof in the town of Milverton; 135A. with similar customs in Hacketstown; the rectory and church of Holmpatrick, with all tithes and profits thereto belonging; the custom and poundage of all wares and merchandize on the quay of Skerries, wrecks of the sea, all customs of the tithe fish, the customs of the farmers of the messuages and cottages in the town or village of Sker-

ries, &c. Immediately after this grant a castle was erected, and a garrison established here. Sir James Fullerton became subsequently seised of the rectory and tithes, as also of the lordship and manor of Holmpatrick, which he sold in 1608 to the Earl of Thòmond, who thereupon assured his title by a patent from the Crown. At the commencement of the eighteenth century, the Hamiltons of Hacketstown, ancestors of the present proprietor, purchased from the Earl of Thomond, *inter alia*, "the town and port of Skerries, and the customs of fish, and the customs of 3s. 4d. out of every great ship that comes out of France, Spain, and Scotland, and 4d. out of every such ship coming out of England," &c. In 1755, the Irish Parliament granted £2,000 for the construction of the pier, and in 1767, £1,500 more for the same purpose; it subsequently fell into decay, but was repaired by Mr. Hans Hamilton, and in 1788, a patent was granted for two yearly fairs and a weekly market, to be held in this town.

A deep but short cutting hence through Chanonhill, is succeeded by an embankment to Barnageera, a locality near which are two of those sepulchral mounts so very numerous over the country, and to which the native annalists ascribe the highest antiquity: they are, indeed, modelled after a manner to defy the injuries of weather, and all the usual assaults of time. Rising from a large base they gradually diminish upwards, till at length they terminate in a circle of narrow circumference, and but slightly raised. In their dimensions and height,

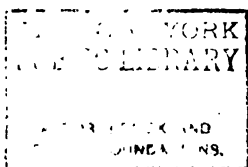
they differ according to the rank or number of the persons for whose commemoration they were thrown up. The practice of raising such monuments over the dead is one of the many aboriginal principles, which adhered to the different societies that diverged from the confusion of Babel. Such was the tomb of Patroclus, as described by Homer; such were the barrows of Achilles, Antilochus, Ajax-Telamon, &c.; such were the mounts mentioned by Herodotus, as raised over the Scythian Kings; such those described by Strabo, as constructed by the Myrsians and Phrygians over the dead; such the monument of Dercennus, who governed Laurentum before the arrival of Æneas in Italy; and such were the funeral piles erected by the Danes over their kings and heroes, and which, during the long establishment of that people in Ireland, became mixed with the corresponding memorials of the natives(a). The mounts so spoken of, as near Barnageera, were partially opened in 1840, in the presence of Mr. G. A. Hamilton, when in one was found a rudely constructed stone coffin, and in the other a quantity of loose human bones.

From Barnageera, after a slight cutting, the railway continues near the steep edge of a bold rocky shore, skirting the grounds of Ardgillan, the noble castellated seat of the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Taylor, its towers proudly peering over the eminence to the left of the line. In reference to this gentleman, it

(a) *Vide* D'Alton's History of the County Dublin, p. 331, &c.

ought to be remarked, that, although the Company were not authorized to take any portion of his demesne, for the purposes of their railway, he, on a representation of the danger and difficulty of carrying the line outside, over the adjoining cliffs, where otherwise it should have been constructed, consented to allow it to run through a portion of his demesne, without any increased charge, and only requiring the usual provision of walls, fences, and approaches, where necessitated by the intersection of his grounds. Hampton Hall, the seat of George Alexander Hamilton, Esq., M.P., succeeds Ardgillan, and the progress of the line through his grounds is exceedingly picturesque; the noble house, the pleasure grounds, the beautiful undulations of the park, the vistas through luxuriant and tastefully grouped woods, the iron-bound shore, occasionally softened by gentle banks and dells dropping down upon the adjacent strand, the sea-views southward through the Skerries islands, and northward beyond the bold head of Clogher, even to the mountains of Mourne, all render this a scene of peculiar attraction. The annexed view has, however, been drawn from an inland point, somewhat west of the railroad (which passes seaward of the house), and it has, from such its position, embraced a section of the improving town of Balbriggan, with its chapel, church, and harbour. In a field, at Hampton, traditionally styled the "north house meadow," one of those *souterrains*, also so frequently discovered in Ireland, has been laid open by Mr. Hamilton; it presents a chamber constructed of

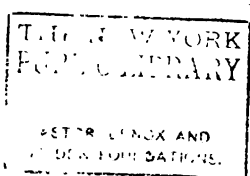






L. H. H. H. H.

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large stones without cement, projecting at the top, until they meet in an arch at the height of about seven feet from the ground; from this, as usual, a gallery or passage opens of similar rude architecture, connecting, as it may be presumed, a series of these chambers. Another specimen of those ancient structures was opened some years since in an adjacent farm, but its traces have been utterly removed.—From Hampton the line proceeds through cutting towards Balbriggan.

In this neighbourhood, at a short distance to the west, is

BALROTHERY,

which gives name to the parish, barony, and union in which it is situated. This townland was an ancient manor of the Barnewalls, and still presents, at the head of the village, on a commanding height, the fine square steeple of an old church, with one angular rounded tower, like those exhibited in the view of Lusk. In its graveyard are monuments to the Crosthwaites, and an old vault of the Hamiltons, in which Baron Hamilton was interred in 1793. In the adjoining field is a portion of a square castellated mansion. Near this locality, according to Doctor Rutty, are several varieties of the iron stone. The fields about it and Lusk, used formerly to supply the clothiers of Dublin with the *dipsacus sativus*, or teazel plant; those imported from England were, however, found more effective than the Irish, and machinery has now superseded all.

In 1200, the Archbishop of Dublin gave the church of Balrothery, with its dependent chapelries, to the religious house of Kilbixy, while, in five years afterwards, King John, by charter, granted to the commonalty of the counties of Dublin and Meath, commonage of turbary in the bogs of Garristown, Balrothery, &c., to hold to them and their successors, in perpetual alms; which right was actually so enjoyed for upwards of two hundred years, when they complained to the king that the trust was abused, by some exercising the right in improper places, or in an injurious mode. Previous to the year 1318, Sir Hugh de Lacy was seised of part of Balrothery, which became forfeited to the Crown, on his espousing the cause of Edward Bruce and his adherents, and was thereupon granted to Richard de Isdall in fee. At the close of the fourteenth century, Robert Burnell, an ancestor of that ancient family, which afterwards settled at Balgriffin, held in fee half the barony of Balrothery; in the sixteenth, the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem had also some landed possessions within the parish, this place being then accounted amongst "the walled and good towns" of the county. In the following century, Peter Barnewall was seised by inheritance of the manor of Balrothery; and in 1641, the right of holding three annual fairs, and a weekly market, was conceded to this town. In the same year, as related more particularly in the General History of Drogheda, the forces intended for its relief mutinied here on their march. In 1666, Knockingen, 135A.;

Knock, 69A.; part of Balrothery, 30A.; Leytown, 133A.; Turkinstown, 56A.; Castleland, 43A.; Stephenstown, 233A., &c.; were granted by patent to the Duke of York, by that infamous policy, which, on the restoration, enriched the son of the martyred king, with the estates which their ancient proprietors forfeited with their lives in his service;

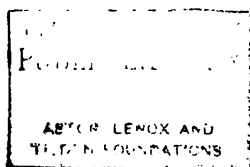
“The gallant cavaliers who fought in vain,
For those who knew not to resign or reign.”

BALBRIGGAN

is next presented to the tourist's notice, and, from the bold manner in which the railway traverses its heights, and surmounts its harbour, this populous and busy town is fully developed. Once an unimportant fishing village, it was advanced towards its present position under the fostering care of the late Baron Hamilton, who, about the middle of the last century, succeeded to its inheritance. Immediately after his acquisition of the estate, he, at an expenditure of several thousand pounds, with a partial assistance from the Irish Parliament, erected the pier, and in 1780, established several cotton works, and a stocking manufactory, which materially conduced to make this place of some commercial importance, while the fertility of the surrounding district, the salubrity of the air, and the facilities for sea bathing, have long rendered it a favourite and fashionable resort in the summer season. The Roman Catholic chapel is a spacious rectangular edifice, with tall lancet windows; there is also a church, as

hereafter mentioned.—A small stream, which, in its course, turns several flour mills, empties itself through the town into the sea, where the harbour opens perhaps the only present place of shelter, for vessels exposed to severe weather, between the bays of Dublin and Carlingford. For its improvement the pier before alluded to was constructed, and in 1829, an inner dock was formed, at a cost of about £3,000, of which more than half was defrayed by the late Rev. George Hamilton, then proprietor; his son, the present member for the University of Dublin, has also expended, and is still expending, large sums in supporting and improving the structure, while the Ballast Board have built an excellent lighthouse on the pier head. Of the mineralogy of the district it may be observed, that a regular vein of sparry micaceous stone, fit for the manufacture of pure crystal glass, has been discovered here, also a vein of copper and sulphur, by that indefatigable mineralogist, Donald Stewart.

The fee of Balbriggan, which, before the civil wars of the seventeenth century, was vested in the Barnewall family, afterwards passed to Richard, the celebrated Earl of Tyrconnell, on whose attainder, and after subsequent mesne assignments, it was, in the commencement of the eighteenth century, purchased by Mr. Alexander Hamilton of Erenagh and Ballybrenagh, in the county Down, from whom it has lineally descended to the present proprietor. On the 3rd of July, 1690, King William encamped here after the battle of the Boyne. In 1795, Earl



F. B. 1. 16.



J. W. Rogers, C. E.

View of the Harbor of Constantinople, 1877

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Fitz William landed here, to assume the government of Ireland; and in 1813, a chapel of ease was founded and endowed here by the Rev. George Hamilton. This handsome edifice was accidentally consumed in 1835, but has been rebuilt by a grant of £480 from the Ecelesiastical Commissioners, and £1000 from Mr. George Alexander Hamilton, who also supports a school in the town, and has erected and enclosed commodious corn, meat, and potato markets.

At Balbriggan, the railway is carried over the inner harbour, by a truly splendid viaduct of eleven arches, each thirty-five feet high above the ground, and thirty in span; the piers, on which these arches rest, are of stone, six feet thick, and forty-one feet in height, six being allowed for the foundation. On each side, at the summit of this viaduct, a footpath is formed of metal floorings, resting on the projections of the piers, an addition, which, besides affording convenient and pleasant promenades, gives a lightness and elegance to the whole structure. From this the railway runs on a level to Bremore, once the manorial residence of a branch of the Barnewall family, now the estate of Lord Lansdowne. The ancient castle, of which traces are yet discernible at left, commanded that sublime and extensive prospect over land and sea, the enjoyment of which is for a short time attainable from the railway line, but the full scope of that view can only be appreciated from the high banks, through which a deep cutting succeeds. From those banks is a noble panorama of the sea and its islands at east, Gormanston cas-

tle in its woods at west, and in the distance at front, the successive heights of Collon, Tullyesker, Carlingford, and Clogher. The cutting continues until Lowther Lodge is passed at right, when a short embankment carries the railway out of the county Dublin, crossing the river Delvin, which separates that county from Meath, by a viaduct of timber, 180 feet in length, and at a height of twenty-eight above the level of the water. The glen of the river, with the seats of Mr. Shaw and Mr. O'Reilly rising above it, have a very pleasing effect at the left, while on the right, Knockingen projects into the sea the long secluded mount, whose sacred remains are immediately contiguous to the railway.

Mr. George Alexander Hamilton, of Hampton, has kindly communicated the following notice of this interesting spot, as the result of his observation and inspection in September, 1840. "Having obtained Lord Gormanston's permission for exploring the mount on his estate at Knockingen, I had it opened, and found it composed of small round stones with shingle from the sea shore. The excavations were soon interrupted by a circle of huge stones, which appear to have been placed around, but at some distance from the centre of the mount, and quite covered with, or buried in shingle. Within this outer circle I found a rude platform, of apparently beaten clay, and upon this an immense heap of burned human bones. As far as could be surmised, the bones were those of human beings of every age. In the centre of this circle was disco-

vered a chamber, constructed of huge flags, some of them more than six feet in height, and within this a rude stone basin, or rather a large stone of sandstone grit, not found in the neighbourhood, with a cavity or hollow formed in it. This stone bore evident marks of fire, and around it on all sides were remains of charcoal, or burned wood, and a quantity of semi-calcined human bones. Amongst these bones were scattered a number of beads, formed of polished stone, of a conical shape, with a hole through each, near the apex of the cone. The mass of bones was very large. The stones have, I fear, been used in the railway, but the remains of the chamber and two or three of the flags may still be seen in the face of the cliff. I may add, that a few years previously, Mr. Shaw, of Delvin Lodge, in cutting a ditch across one of his fields on the lands of Knockingen, came upon a considerable number of skeletons; and in my own immediate neighbourhood, on the lands of Balbriggan, rude stone coffins, with human skeletons, are found very frequently. Several were discovered during the last year in one of the fields belonging to Mr. Matthews, of Tanners-town." Although Mr. Hamilton traced no tradition, now existing amongst the people, relative to the origin of this vast funeral pile, the ancient annalists seem to afford an illustration, which Dr. Hanmer embodies in the following passage of his "Chronicle of Ireland."

"Many giants and other champions there were

in these days (about the commencement of the fifth century) in Ireland, of Irish and Danish birth, hired by them for their defence. These, travelling into foreign countries, fought many combats, and got yearly tribute unto their country, as the manner then was among such challengers. For this they were generally envied, and a day was appointed by the invaders to arrive together in Ireland, to overrun the country, and root out the whole nation. The first company, to the number of 30,000, landed at the Derry, where . . . they were all overthrown; the second company of this combination came to Lambay, landed their men at the 'Follesse of Skerries,' set them in battle array, and marched to a place now called Knock-na-cean, i. e., the hill of heads, where Dermott Lamhdearg, King of Leinster, met them, they fought a cruel battle with equal fortune for the space of four days; the Irish, by reason of the spoil and victory got at the former battle, were mightily encouraged, and also the milk and fresh meat which the country yielded them, and the strangers wanted, made them the more able to fight. To be short, the strangers were overthrown, and 36,000 of them slain, whose arms furnished Ireland 'thoroughly' to encounter with the rest of the combination."

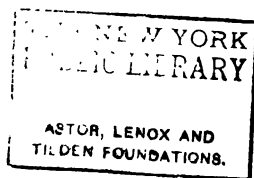
The Railway continues from Knockingen in cuttings, but not so deep as to exclude such glimpses of the castle of Gormanston as its own woods permit, while the baronial splendour of that edifice is accurately depicted in the annexed plate.



THE TOWER OF

St. John's College, Cambridge

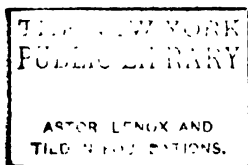
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The historic family of De Preston, who have inherited this manor of Gormanston from the time of Edward the Third, derived their name from Preston, in Lancashire, of which they were the lords at a yet earlier period ; nor is the date of their first settling in Ireland to be postponed even to the time of Edward the Third. During the reign of his royal father, Richard de Preston was constable of the castle of Drogheda, as shewn in the general history of that town. In 1357, Sir Robert Preston was the first of the name who acquired Gormanston by grant from Sir Almaric de St. Amand, then Justiciary of Ireland, and lord of Gormanston. The manor extended into the two counties of Dublin and Meath, and its descent, in the lineal heirs of the first grantee, is the subject of many curious records. In 1361, Sir Robert was knighted in the field, by Lionel Duke of Clarence, and was summoned to Parliaments and Great Councils as in right of his territorial possessions here. He was afterwards appointed Baron of the Irish Exchequer, and subsequently Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Sir Christopher, of Gormanston, the son of this Sir Robert, was also knighted in the field by Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, during the wars in Thomond ; and his only son, another Christopher, married the daughter of Sir Jenico Dartitz, so frequently mentioned in the "History of Drogheda." The son of the last-mentioned Christopher was another Sir Robert, who, in 1478, was created Viscount Gormanston, and ho-

noured with the appointment of Viceroy of Ireland in the same year, and in 1493; an office which his son William, the second Viscount, also enjoyed in 1494 and 1515. After the civil war of 1641, a survey was taken of the extent of this manor, but the Act of Settlement contained a special saving of the rights of the ancient inheritors. James, the seventh Viscount in descent, was one of the Privy Council of James the Second: he was afterwards a colonel of horse in his service, and to the last, from an excusable, however mistaken, sense of loyalty and honour, adhered to his royal master, and died within the walls of Limerick, in 1691. On his consequent attainder, this, the premier Viscounty of the Irish peerage, remained in abeyance for a century, until, in 1800, the proceedings of outlawry were reversed for manifest errors apparent on their face, and the present Viscount, the lineal heir male of the first, and the twelfth in the descent of the honour, was restored to his rank and birthright.

After passing parallel to Gormanston, the railway crosses a pretty valley, by a short embankment and bridge. The cutting is thence renewed, at first slight, but afterwards deeper, through the bold projection of Ben-Head, to the seat of Captain Pepper at Mosney; here the line, at the country side, presents nearly a level surface, while on the other, at a great depth, a deep margin of pasture land slopes to the sea. Mosney brook is crossed by a handsome stone bridge of two arches, each sixteen feet wide, and twenty above the level of the water. Embankment,



100



7. Raddysie

J.E. Jones, C. E.

level, and cutting succeed in short quick alternation to the beautiful valley and river of the Nanny; these are crossed by an embankment with a noble viaduct of timber in the centre, 304 feet in length. Looking up the valley, from this viaduct, the windings of the river are exceedingly picturesque, overhung, at the south side, by the wooded banks on which towers the castle of Ballygarth; this tract, once the estate of the Netterville family, in the confiscations of 1641 became forfeited to the Crown, and was subsequently granted by Charles the Second to Captain George Pepper, whose descendant, Colonel Pepper, is the present inheritor. Immediately after passing the river, the line cuts through the little hamlet of Leytown, formerly a seaport of considerable importance; while it may be here observed, that, at a very early period, the whole adjacent coast acquired such a notorious celebrity for illicit commerce, that Edward the Third, at the close of his reign, directed a commission of scrutiny to ascertain and obviate any exportations from the maritime ports of Meath, as well as those of Dublin and Louth, of any gold, silver, iron, horses, arms, corn, or victuals, without license or payment of duty.

The railway, on passing the Nanny, enters the parish of Julianstown, through which it proceeds by a cutting, but enters that of Colpe on a level, which is afterwards sustained by embankment. In this interval, Betaghstown, or as it is more popularly called Bettystown, with the seat of Mr. Shephard, its proprietor, are traced through the woods at right, while Pilton

House (before alluded to) appears at left. A cutting succeeds, at first slight (during which, Colpe church is seen close at the east), then deeper, in the immediate vicinity of many interesting localities unnecessary here to recur to, as being already fully noticed in the "Environs of Drogheda." At last, an embankment conducts the traveller by a graceful curve, to the edge of St. James's hill, and into the full presence of that town, its churches and public buildings, its factories, its fine ecclesiastical remains, its classic river, and shipping, all filling the busy valley below; while the commanding height, on which the present terminus reposes, presents adjacent objects of civil, ecclesiastical and military interest, in the poor house, the church of St. Mary, and the Mill-mount, and the opposite eminences of Louth beautifully softening in the distance, close in this theatre of historic interest, whose annals it is the object of the following pages to illustrate: this town, which sustained sieges so memorable, where such proofs of devoted loyalty were evinced, where Parliaments were held, whose enactments have exercised the most powerful national influence down to the latest times, where Synods of not less importance have been convened; within which no less than four British Sovereigns have, in the intervals of time, been received; and where happily, ere long, the Majesty of England, enthroned in the hearts of her Irish subjects, will shed the cheering influence of her presence on this portion of the United Kingdom, on this green leaf of the indissoluble shamrock.

MODERN STATISTICS

OF

DROGHEDA.

DROGHEDA, in the Irish structure of the word, may be interpreted to signify the bridge of the ford, and has been accordingly, by the historians of the early centuries, rendered in Latin "Pons Vadi," and "Pontana Civitas," while, by the English invaders, it was more vernacularly styled Droheda, Drocheda, Drohed, and sometimes Treoid and Tredagh. It is a sea port, borough, and market town, and a county in itself, extending on each side of the Boyne, and comprising within its liberties 5780 statute acres, the contributions of two of the richest agricultural counties of Ireland, Meath and Louth. The estimated annual value of this tract is £14,402, giving an acreable average of about £2 10s. Although wholly in the province of Leinster, this town has been always considered the key of Ulster, the great point from which the traffic of the north diverges, and, from its position, commanding equal advantages for com-

merce with the sister country. It is distant, on the old and still customary standard of calculation, 57 miles south by west from Belfast, and 23 north from Dublin, lying in latitude $53^{\circ} 43' 45''$ and longitude $6^{\circ} 24' 15''$.

From a comparison of the hearth-money tax anciently collected from this town, it would seem that the number of hearths at least increased twelvefold from 1705 to 1730. In 1789, the total number of houses in the town was estimated as 1731; in 1813, that of the town and liberties has been returned as 3086; in 1821, as 3364; and in 1831, as 3371; while, according to present calculation, the number is increased to 3429. The population has advanced in nearly similar progression. Beaufort, in 1792, accounts that of the town as upwards of 10,000; the census of 1813 returns that of the town and liberties as 16,123; that of 1821 as 18,118; and that of 1831, as 17,365, of whom 15,138 were stated to be within the town and suburbs, 2227 in the agricultural district; the latter return also classifies 946 males as then employed in the manufactures, and the members of the Roman Catholic persuasion to those of other religions as 9 to 1. The decrease in the latter census is fairly attributed to the emigration of artisans and manufacturers in the commercial panic of 1825-6, hereafter alluded to, while other minor emigrations have since taken place in 1832, 1833, and 1834 (amounting in the total of these years to 396 persons), and the cholera, in its visitation of

1832, carried away about 1200 persons; nevertheless the late, and undoubtedly most accurate census, reports, according to its mode of estimate, the present civic population as 16,261, and the rural as 2999 persons. Of the civic this searching inquiry states, 863 employed in agricultural pursuits, 1866 in manufactures and trade, and 4933 not having any specified occupation.

The streets are built tolerably regular, the four best meet at right angles at the Tholsel, while many other commodious dwelling-houses are to be seen in Fair-street, William-street, Palace-street, and on the quay at the north side of the river, called the Custom-House quay (formerly the Mall). Peter-street, one of these alluded to as pointing to the Tholsel, is of extremely steep ascent, and many lanes descend from the heights at both sides of the town with great precipitancy to the valley of the Boyne. The pavements throughout the ancient limits of the town have been, and still are, kept in repair without any municipal assessment at the expense of the Corporation, an immunity which the present body has extended to the watch tax ; but the town is lit at the charge of the inhabitants as assessed at vestry, the light being supplied by a gas company established here some years since. Sewers have also been partially constructed within the town, but the inhabitants are still obliged, at much inconvenience, to seek their supplies of fresh water from some few pumps through the town, or from fountains on the quays, the best

and fullest being from a well which takes its rise at Tobberboyce, and flows into a cistern near the Linen Hall. Some sordid huts formerly disfigured the outskirts of the town, but this class of habitations is assuming a better aspect, and the erection of comfortable cottages, for the manufacturing interest, is rapidly progressing; the rent of these, where built of clay and roofed with thatch, is about two guineas per annum; where constructed of stone, two stories high and slated, varies from five to seven pounds. Indeed house-rent seems equally reasonable in every scale at Drogheda. In West-street and Shop-street, the chief streets of shops and business, the houses bring about £35 annual rent; in Laurence-street, with coach-house and stable, about £30; and in Fair-street, £25. The chief proprietary, deriving under the Corporation, are the families of Smith, Balfour, Leland, Sandiford, Rodger, Fairtlough, Tandy, Gibbons, Holmes, Cheshire, and Hardman.

The labouring classes are chiefly employed either in the factories, in weaving in their own houses, as quay porters, or as field labourers. The women, however, scarcely find any occupation, except as auxiliaries in the weaving department, spinning having long since ceased to be remunerative, and grown girls and children find more ready engagements at the factories. The earnings of labour may be set down as, for children in these establishments, from 2s. to 3s. per week; grown girls from 2s. 6d. to 6s.; hacklers, from 10s. to 18s.; and mechanics, from

20s. to 28s. Weavers in their own houses generally make from 6s. to 12s. per week, by the combined labour of principal and assistant; tradesmen about £1 per week; coal and corn porters, 16s.; and the demand for them has increased with the improvement of the navigation, there are now about 200 licensed. Field labourers get at least 6s. per week, and more, according to the exigencies of the harvest. All these classes are generally industrious and sober, especially of late years, as a proof of which it may be stated, that there are but four pawnbrokers in the town, and the number of public houses has been reduced, under the happy influence of the temperance movement, from 120 to about 75, indeed more than half the population are now of the total abstinence principles, and there is a consequent considerable improvement in the comfort of the inhabitants. Irish is spoken to a certain extent in the town, and in the adjacent rural districts, more especially on the Louth side.

The Boyne, as before mentioned, divides the town and liberties into two unequal portions, of which the larger at the north side comprises the parish of St. Peter, 3504A. 3R. 36P. with 848A. 1R. 7P. a portion of that of Ballymakenny, which is entirely an agricultural district (the townland of Philipstown though almost completely insulated within the franchises, does not now form part of them). This, the Louth section of the town, is connected with the southern portion, St. Mary's parish containing 1426A.

3R. 20P., by a too narrow bridge of three arches, erected in 1722, near which markets are held on Thursdays for horned cattle and sheep; for fish on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; and on the latter day for coarse linens at the Linen Hall, corn at the corn market, and for other general purposes, while hay and straw are brought in for sale on every day. Fairs for cattle, and especially for horses, are established annually, on May 12th, June 22nd, August 26th, and October 29th, by ancient charter, and to these are added by a recent patent of 1833, others on the second Monday in March, second Friday in April, third Friday in November, and third Friday in December. There are also convenient shambles for butchers' meat, and the adjacent fish stalls are well supplied with salmon of peculiar delicacy, caught abundantly in the Boyne above the town, and haddock, cod, plaice, whiting, herrings, and oysters, are also brought in by the fishermen's families in great plenty; the supply of hake, turbot, brit, sole, mackarel, mullet, gurnet, eels, and lobsters is more limited. Herrings and cured cod are brought from Scotland, and are sold, the former at £1 per barrel, the latter at 17s. per cwt., but no cod is cured upon this coast. Butter is also sold in the town for local consumption; when any is required for export it is chiefly obtained from Cavan. Eggs, for home use or exportation, are bought in the market, and, although the exports exceed 2000 crates annually, the price to the local consumers has not been

much increased, so great is the supply which the export trade has brought to the town. Coals are usually sold (averaging the prices of all kinds), at 13s. per ton in summer, and 15s. in winter.

From above the bridge a navigable canal has been formed, partly through the bed of the river, but chiefly in artificial parallel cuts, fed by the Boyne, and thus it proceeds to the interior as far as Navan, greatly facilitating the interchange of trade between Drogheda and the inland markets, an object for which a distinct body entitled the Boyne Navigation Company, had been incorporated. The work was originally contemplated in the General Inland Navigation Act of 1715 (2 Geo. I. c. 12, s. 21); and in April, 1746, the Corporation of Drogheda having been informed, that the Board established by that Act had been contemplating the application, of a portion of the funds vested in them by Parliament, to the service of the Boyne, but that it had been objected that the water customs of the Corporation, if required to be paid for goods and vessels passing that way, would be a discouragement to the navigation, empowered one of their aldermen, who was also a member of that Board, to engage on behalf of the Corporation, as he should think fit, for the abatement of all such water customs. The laudable project was not, however, then accomplished, but in 1787, certain other commissioners were incorporated for managing this particular line of navigation, and the Members of Parliament for Meath, Louth, and

Drogheda, and the Mayor of Drogheda for the time being, were constituted members; whereupon, in 1789, by the 29 Geo. III. c. 33, debentures to the amount of £12,500, bearing interest at four *per cent. per annum*, were ordered to be issued to such persons as should be undertakers for completing this line of canal, as it was then contemplated from Drogheda to Trim, pursuant to their petition to the House of Commons, with a proviso, that as soon as the subscribers and undertakers should be incorporated to carry on the navigation, the aforesaid commissioners were to be divested of their former authorities, which thereupon devolved upon the new subscribers and undertakers. Thus was this second body formed, but the work has only been completed by them as far as Carrick-dexter beyond Slane, and thence by private speculation to Navan, an extent of nineteen English miles from Drogheda. The amount of tolls thereon in 1837, was £775, the rate of freight from Drogheda to Slane being 3s. per ton, toll 1½d. per ton per mile, a return which was deemed adequate to cover the expense of not only maintaining the existing works, but also their gradual improvement. There are no passage boats on either of these water lines. It may be here mentioned that the amount of inland traffic with Drogheda by these canals and by the roads was, on the latest Parliamentary inquiry, estimated as 67,000 tons to the town, and 39,000 from it, annually. This river, discharging itself into the Irish sea about five miles below the

bridge, affords equal facilities for foreign commerce, while the grand northern trunk railway makes its first important rest on its southern bank, at Pitcher-hill, in the parish of St. Mary.

The Boyne formerly overflowed the low grounds about the town in several places, particularly that portion of the north bank, which lies east of the bridge, but this section has been long since rescued from the water and progressively improved upon, especially by the erection of very fine storehouses. The lots of ground, however, which perhaps afford the best and healthiest sites for terraces of dwelling-houses, being the picturesque elevations of St. James's Hill, the sloping banks at each side of the dale, the fields that descend from the mill-mount and Ball's Grove to the river, and the southern banks of the Boyne, opposite the Mell flax-mill, are yet wholly unoccupied. The approach to the town in this Dublin direction is also particularly striking; the spire of Mary's church first appears; next the splendid Poor-house; the mill-mount crowned with its Martello tower; the shades of Ball's grove yet more at left, and those of Prospect and Bewly in the more distant right, with Clogher Head beyond, succeed; the Magdalen tower, the steeple of St. Peter's, and the Sienna convent attract attention on the Louth high bank, and the heights of Tullyesker in the distant foreground; presently the dome of the Tholsel and the factories' funnels emerge from the deep hollow, and, on a yet nearer approach, the whole crowd of

houses, in their fullest and most commercial aspect, appear filling the valley of the Boyne, as represented in the prefixed engraving. The historic associations of the town and river complete the interest of the scene; the siege which the former sustained, and the battle of kings that was decided on the banks of the latter. Other approaches and avenues afford different, and perhaps not less attractive views of the town, while, in the judgment of many, the best sketch of Drogheda could be taken from the quay on the way to Bewly, at a point where the bridge would form the centre, and the two parish churches the side terminators. This town is also finely exhibited, with the surrounding country, in a glorious panorama, from the mill-mount, or from the hill of Ramullen.

There are some respectable residents in and about the town, but society is not much cultivated at present. A public reading-room and news-room has been fitted up in the mayoralty house, and another very recently by the Total Abstinence Society in West-street; to the latter a circulating library is attached, for the use of the members, and which, it is to be hoped, will be the means of recommending to the working classes such popular treatises, as will best instruct them in the capabilities and chemistry of the soil, the improvement of long mismanaged farms, the cultivation of untenanted and unwholesome wastes, and the other available resources for the manufacture of native produce. With the main object of this society, have also been united, in the

last year, useful and desirable efforts for the revival of the Irish language, literature, and music. A literary debating society has been formed here, and a Mechanics' Institute was opened, which the Corporation are desirous to endow with an annual grant. A horticultural society has been recently established, and an agricultural and farming society holds annual meetings in the town. Two newspapers, the *Drogheda Argus*, and the *Drogheda Conservative Journal*, emanate from the town; while, in aid of the commercial interest, a branch of the Bank of Ireland has been for some years established in Lawrence-street, and another from the Hibernian Bank is at present under contemplation. Some years since, in a different state of society, when country towns were of more fashionable resort, Drogheda was particularly frequented by those who wished to enjoy cheap and genteel society. Fair-street was then the aristocratic selection, an honour which it afterwards divided with Lawrence-street.

CHURCHES, CHAPELS, ETC.

The town, as before suggested, is divided by the river into the parishes of St. Peter at north, and St. Mary at south, each having their parochial churches, chapels, and other places of worship, their schools, charitable institutions, civil, commercial, and manufacturing establishments, as hereinafter more particularly detailed.

St. Peter's Parish and Church.—The agricultural

portion of this parish exhibits various qualities of soil, the best, being dairy land, brings a rent of about £5 per acre, while the substratum of other parts, being gray and white limestone, is exported to England, or disposed of as ballast, to the profit of its proprietors and tenantry. The tithes (about £300 per annum) are payable to the lay impropriator, the Marquis of Drogheda, who has also the patronage of the vicarage (together with Killineer). The ecclesiastical valuations of this parish, from 1725 to 1805, are of record in the State Paper Room Council Office, and the annual amount of its vestry assessment was stated, in a Return to Parliament in 1832, as £664, on an average calculation of the three preceding years. The vicar, who has cure of souls and is subjected to episcopal jurisdiction, derives his income from the following sources, as reported to Parliament by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1836 (now, however, subject to the legislative reductions, so far as regards the rent-charges).

Rent-charge from Mornington parish .	£17	10	0
Do. Colpe	82	10	0
Do. Dowth	46	3	1
Do. Julianstown	90	0	0

(The above were purchased from
lay impropriators by the Board
of First Fruits).

Rent of four acres of glebe in Drogheda	22	0	0
Rent of twenty-three acres of glebe in Carlingford	27	10	9

Minister's money from the town . . .	£200	0	0
Grant from the Corporation . . .	43	7	8

(Being, it would seem, as hereafter mentioned, an appropriation out of the Vicars' Choral Fund of £54 Irish).

Rent of houses in Drogheda . . .	32	11	9
----------------------------------	----	----	---

£ 561 13 3(a).

The glebe house is a handsome building, but too closely and undistinguishably approximating to the consecrated graveyard. The church, which was rebuilt in 1753, is a handsome and substantial structure, with a tower surmounted by a spire. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners recently granted £463 towards its better repair. The interior (of which Mr. Tumalti, a native artist, has finished a handsome painting), is very beautiful, exhibiting some fine mural monuments, and in front of the organ loft, a

(a) This statement is given on the authority of the Report above mentioned; it is, however, necessary to observe, that the present incumbent alleges, it is "in several particulars incorrect," but declines giving any further explanation, conceiving, as he writes, that he would not be justified in making any disclosures of his income as vicar, to a private individual, however bound to furnish any required returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or to Parliament. This portion of parochial statistics must, therefore, remain subject to the above doubts, while it does appear, that from the improvement of the town, and increase of buildings, the minister's money has, during the time of the present vicar, and since the date of the above Report, increased to £246 12s. 6d., the present assessment.

tablet of Miss Leigh's charitable bequest hereafter alluded to. It is capable of accommodating 900 persons, and divine service is performed there twice on all Sundays, and once on every Wednesday and on the festivals, the sacraments being administered monthly.

In the ancient church of this parish, which was then collegiate, Primate Donat O'Fidabra, about the year 1230, held a synod, with the object of securing certain annual stipends to the vicars of his province. In 1232, Richard de la Corner was here consecrated Bishop of Meath, and in 1250, the collegiate church, having been raised into a deanery, was held, with those of Ardee and Dundalk, and the church of Louth, by David O'Brogan, Bishop of Clogher. In 1262, this was the scene of a most important synod, held by Patrick O'Scanlain, Archbishop of Armagh, with the suffragans of his province, and some of those of the province of Tuam then subject to him by primatial right. It was also attended by some of the cathedral canons and council of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Lord Justice (Sir Richard de Rupella), and several of the peers of Ireland. Some of the constitutions of this assembly are to be found in the Register of Octavian de Palatio, Archbishop of Armagh, and are also printed in Wilkins's Concilia (vol. i p. 757). They evince, that its chief object was to establish the authority of the Primate of Armagh over the other provinces, and especially to appease the disputes, that had theretofore existed between the Primate and the Bishops and clergy of

Meath, who had claimed an exemption from metropolitan visitation, and ineffectually prosecuted their suit in that behalf at the Court of Rome. The right, however, was upon this occasion fully established, although primatial pre-eminence continued to be warmly contested long afterwards, and, in 1349, threatened such consequences of insubordination, that Richard Fitz Ralph, then Archbishop of Armagh, and residing in Drogheda, publicly denounced all who disowned his ecclesiastical authority, whereupon many of the offenders repaired hither, and with public humility acknowledging their error, obtained forgiveness. Even the Prior of the noble Hospital of Kilmainham, who had been active in his resistance, being stricken with remorse in his last sickness, sent special proctors to offer his duty and submission, but died before their return. In 1404, Doctor John Colton, who had been previously Lord Justice and Lord Chancellor of Ireland, afterwards advanced to the Primacy by the provision of the Pope, and an ambassador from Richard the Second to the Court of Rome, was interred here, having, shortly before his death, resigned his archbishopric.

Within the church, that then existed in the parish, as particularly stated hereafter, was delivered that wholesome exhortation of brotherly love and Christian benevolence, which, in the instance of this town, united two theretofore jealous and weak corporations, into one industrious and influential community. The Boyne water had been the demarca-

tion of divided interests and hostile feelings, but from this temple of their God went forth the voice of peace and charity, that laid the foundation of Drogheda's prosperity. The Primate of that day, Doctor Nicholas Fleming, was the first to sign a petition to the king, in consequence of which, the town was incorporated in its present form. In 1416, the said Archbishop was interred within this church, and in 1428, Primate Swayn held a provincial synod here, which was attended by the Prelates of Meath, Down, Clogher, Raphoe, Kilmore, Ardagh, and Derry. The chief objects of this synod were to regulate the distribution of intestates' property, to prohibit the alienation of church lands; to enforce the frequent celebration of mass, confirmation of children, administering of the sacraments, the observance of fasts and abstinence; mummers, jesters, poets, harpers, kerns, and importunate beggars, were also hereby especially interdicted; while the Archbishop thereby next enjoined all his suffragans to induce, establish, and maintain peace and good will in their dioceses, between English and Irishry, and amongst all the subjects of the king, under pain of ecclesiastical censure(*a*). This prelate, about the same time, founded, in honour of St. Anne, a chapel and chauntry in this church, in which another had been previously dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. About the year 1430, an interesting inquiry was held here before this Pre-

(*a*) Armagh Registry, MS.

late, after an appeal to Rome, relative to the tithes, and right of fishing in the Boyne; the adverse claimants were the Prior of Lanthony, for his vicars of St. Peter's as well as of Colpe and Mornington, and the Prior of Louth, for his vicars of Termonfeckin and Kil-clogher. In 1439, Doctor Swayn dying, was here interred. In 1449, Roger Maguire, styled Prince of Fermanagh, was consecrated Bishop of Clogher by Primate Mey within this church; and about the year 1452, the said Primate, with the consent of his Dean and Chapter, united his mensal tithes of Rathcoole, in the county Louth, together with his portion of the church of Drummin, for ever, to the chauntry of St. Anne's chapel within this church, with the object of maintaining a greater number of priests to pray for the souls of him, his predecessors and successors. About the same time, as appears from an entry in the White Parchment Book, Thomas Burgess, of Dublin, granted to the Corporation of Drogheda for ever, twenty acres of arable land, meadow, and pasture, with the appurtenances, in Corballis in the barony of Duleek, for the sustentation of a chaplain at Our Lady's altar in this church. There was also a second chauntry here to the Blessed Virgin, and another dedicated to St. Catherine, besides that to St. Anne before mentioned.

The clergy of Armagh diocese, in an assembly held here about the year 1454, elected Alan Ashe, then Prior of the House of St. John the Baptist of Ardee, to be their proxy in a Parliament convened

by the Earl of Kildare; the allowance voted upon this occasion for their said representative, was eight pence out of every pound in the valuations of all benefices within the deaneries of Drogheda, Ardee, and Dundalk. In 1460, a provincial synod was held here by Primate Bole, assisted by the Bishops of Kilmore and Ardagh; while, during the primacy of Octavian de Palatio, synods were held here in the years 1480, 1486, 1489, 1495, 1504 (which last is recorded to have been adjourned to Ardee, on account of the pestilence then raging here), 1507, and 1513. The venerable prelate, who had convened these assemblies, was interred in a vault which himself had caused to be constructed within this church. It may be here noticed of this Primate, that, when Henry the Seventh was deserted by many persons of great power in Ireland, he could never be induced to recede from his allegiance, though his loyalty involved him in constant troubles and dangers. In 1518, a synod was held here, wherein it was ordained, that none should be admitted to cure of souls within the English part of the diocese, without the approbation and institution of the Ordinary; and that especial accounts should be taken by the curates of parishes, of the wills and assets of persons dying therein, the names of the witnesses, executors, and legatees, and that same should be taken within one month after the respective deaths. In 1528, another synod was held here, which was attended by the Abbot of Mellefont, and many of the clergy of the

English portion of the diocese ; and in 1534 another, but its session was also dissolved in consequence of a pestilence. In 1548, the steeple of this church, then represented as "one of the highest in the world," was prostrated by a violent tempest. It was replaced by another of wood, which remained until consumed in Cromwell's visitation of 1649. In 1554, the celebrated George Dowdal, Archbishop of Armagh, held a provincial synod here, for the purpose of resisting the progress of the Reformation. Its acts especially prohibited the marriage of the clergy ; the indiscreet collation of benefices ; simony ; the exaction of dues for administering the sacraments, &c. ; while it directed the revival of " the ancient rites and ceremonies of the Church," the celebration of mass, the administering of the sacraments, the restoration of images, lights, incense, holy water, &c. ; and ordered, that laymen should contribute to the repairs of churches, under pain of ecclesiastical censure, and clerks, impropriators, and farmers, under pain of sequestration of the fruits of their benefices ; it likewise prescribed the relaxation of mortuaries where widows and orphans survived, and assets were inadequate. In the following year, this Primate commanded the observance of a jubilee throughout all Ireland, to propitiate the same objects. In 1556, he held another synod here, in which, amongst many commendable regulations, the Church gave liberty to husbandmen and labourers, to work on certain festivals then mentioned. In 1584, Primate Lancas-

ter (theretofore one of the chaplains of Queen Elizabeth), was buried within this church, in the vault of his predecessor, the said Octavian; and in five years afterwards, his successor, Primate Long, was entombed by his side.

About the same period, the rectory and tithes of this church, which were theretofore parcel of the possessions of the priory of Duleek, were granted, with the other estates of that religious house, to Gerald Viscount Moore, whose descendants have since inherited them, and, as the vicar had only a stipend from them, the vicarage was never rated to the First Fruits. This rectory was then found, on inquisition, to extend into Drogheda, Kilmore, Philipstown, Newtownrath, and Lessedewick *alias* Lessdue; and the title of the Moore family to the fee thereof, was confirmed by successive patents, in 1612, 1619, and 1640. In 1610, Brutus Babington, a native of Cheshire, was here consecrated Bishop of Derry, as was Doctor Thomas Moygne Bishop of Kilmore in 1612; and, in the following year, Primate Henry Ussher was buried here. This latter prelate, being early patronized by Doctor Loftus, Archbishop of Dublin, was sent by him into England on the occasion of the founding of Trinity College, to present a petition to Queen Elizabeth for that object, and to, in every manner, solicit its accomplishment. It was he, accordingly, who obtained a mortmain license for the lands granted by the Corporation of Dublin for the site of that university, and, in gratitude for such his

exertions, he was nominated its first Fellow. In 1618, the Corporation, on a renewal of their charter, as hereafter more particularly mentioned, covenanted to maintain certain singing men and choristers in this church, where cathedral service was then performed, but on that service being discontinued, a sum of £54 of the late currency, was in lieu allocated by said body, with consent of the Primate, to the vicar, the parish clerk, and sexton, of the parish, and it was stipulated that this rent should be chargeable on all the property that was granted and confirmed to the Corporation by King James. In 1619, Doctor Lancelot Bulkeley was here consecrated Archbishop of Dublin, as were the afterwards so celebrated James Ussher to the See of Meath, and Doctor Spottiswood to that of Clogher, in 1621. A Visitation of 1622 states Lord Moore impropiator of this vicarage; that Henry Lesley was then incumbent; that the benefice was not valued, being stipendiary, and the impropiator having the whole tithes, great and small; that the church was in a bad state, but the chancel repaired; and that there was a house for the vicar. In the following year, Malcolm Hamilton, and Archibald Hamilton, were respectively consecrated here, the former Archbishop of Cashel, the latter Bishop of Killala; and in 1624, Primate Hampton dying, was buried in this church. In 1629, Randolph Barlow was here consecrated Archbishop of Tuam; as was the celebrated Doctor Bedell, Bishop of Kilmore.

In 1634, the historian, Nicholas Barnard, was appointed by the Crown to the Deanery of St. Phelan of Kilmore, with this vicarage annexed, and a clause of union *pro hac vice*; and at the close of the same year Primate Hampton was buried in this church. In 1635, Doctor Henry Leslie, who had been the chaplain and devoted adherent of Charles the First, was here consecrated Bishop of Down and Connor; and in 1638, Doctor Synge received similar consecration to the See of Cloyne, from the hands of the great Archbishop Ussher, within this church. In 1643, the second Viscount Moore, whose gallantry in defending the town is particularly noticed hereafter, and who was killed by a cannon shot at Portlester in Meath, was buried in this church, the sight of which afterwards so affected his widow, that she fell in a faint from her horse, and a mortification ensuing, she was in three days after laid beside her beloved consort. The visitation of Cromwell in September, 1649, irretrievably injured this edifice, it having been then blown up, involving in its ruin, a part of the garrison, and many of the most respectable inhabitants, who had fled thither for refuge. Previous to that event, this church yielded to none in extent or magnificence, while its precincts, as before shown, comprised several chapels and oratories, erected and dedicated by the piety of former individuals. Of one of the stained glass windows, that then ornamented it, the following notice occurs in Guillim's "Dispaye of Heraldrie" (published in 1638). "He beareth ar-

gent a chevron engrailed between three trumpets sable, by the name of Thunder. This coat armour standeth on a glass window in St. Peter's church in Drogheda, in Ireland." In 1660, the Corporation demised "one house, with some old walls, in St. Peter's churchyard," to Arthur Wotton, for sixty-one years; they also, in this year, originated a contribution towards the upholding of the church, to which the Primate gave £100.

In 1662, a Commission of Inquiry issued concerning the ruinous state of St. Peter's church; and in the same year, Primate Bramhall bequeathed £500 for its repair, and that of the cathedral of Armagh, to be exclusive of such sums as he might bestow during his life for these objects. In 1666, the parishioners expended a liberal contribution for the same purpose, and for beautifying the aisle. On this occasion, as noticed in the Register of the church, Henry Wagstaffe, "one that lives on alms, gave three pounds to make the rails about the holy table." The church was thereupon dedicated to God: "He grant that it may be established for ever, and blessed in all things by his eternal goodness! Then preached in the morning, James Lord Archbishop of Armagh, and in the afternoon, J. Hodson, vicar"(a). In 1669, John Hodson, clerk, vicar of this church, obtained a fee farm grant from the Corporation, of sundry premises, more particularly mentioned in the Cor-

(a) Register of St. Peter's Church.

porate History; while Richard Tyrrel, and Alderman John Towers, had, at the same time, leases respectively of chauntry lands appertaining to this church, for sixty-one years. In 1682, Tobias Pullen was presented by the Crown to the Deanery of Ferns, with this vicarage, and the rectories of Louth and Bewly; while incumbent here, he entered into an agreement with the Corporation, that if they would procure an organ, he would be at the charge of maintaining an organist out of the Vicars' Choral money, and a "commendable organ" was accordingly ordered to be placed in this church. In 1694, on the promotion of Dean Pullen to the See of Cloyne, Thomas Cox obtained, on the Crown's presentation, a similar union of the above benefices; and, in the following year, had a lease from the Corporation, of the old walls in St. Peter's churchyard, theretofore leased to Alderman John Towers, together with a garden between it and Magdalen-street," to hold to him and his successors for sixty-one years, at the annual rent of five shillings. In the premises granted by King William in 1697, to the Corporation, the vicarage house and garden of St. Peter's were included, which the Corporation appears to have confirmed to the vicar and his successors in 1702. In 1699, on the marriage of Lord Moore with the daughter of Viscount Loftus, this vicarage and its appurtenances were, with his other properties in Drogheda and elsewhere, conveyed to the uses of the settlement, and his leasing powers were restricted.

In 1701, Doctor Walker, who had been the principal of a very celebrated school in this town, was buried here, where, in twenty years afterwards, a monument to his memory was erected by one of his scholars.

The toleration, that, in respect to the private opinions of King William, permitted three Roman Catholics to remain at the Aldermanic Board here during the whole of his reign, was, on the accession of Queen Anne, instantaneously controlled, and in 1702, the before mentioned Ts. Cox, vicar, and Wm. Meyer, curate of this church, having certified that Thomas Peppard Fitz-George, Christopher Peppard Fitz-George, and Anthony Bird of this town, merchants, had not received here the sacrament of the Lord's supper, according to the custom of the Church of Ireland, for the last seven years, and Henry Meade, Mayor, having certified that the said individuals had refused to take the oaths or sign the declaration usually tendered to all freemen of the corporation, they were thereupon expelled from said body(a). In 1719, the commons, as hereafter more particularly set forth, were granted by the Mayor, &c., to the then vicar of this church and his successors for ever, in trust for charitable uses. In 1720, Dr. Francis Hutchinson was here consecrated Bishop of Down and Connor. In 1722 the Archbishop of Armagh having filed an information in Chancery for the recovery of the arrears of the annuity, which the corporation were so, as before mentioned, bound

(a) Register of St. Peter's Church.

to pay, by their acceptance of the charter of 1618, for the maintenance of the Vicars Choral (singing men and choristers), but who had not been strictly so established, the Corporation having in lieu thereof, as stated, given an augmentation of salary to the vicar, to enable him to establish a curate, for performance of divine service twice every day, and for preaching in the afternoons of Sundays, said informations were stayed; and the king subsequently, on the recommendation of his English Attorney-General, directed a release and discharge to be made to the Corporation, from the payment of said arrears, and which release is duly enrolled in Chancery, the future gales of the annuity, however, to be duly paid in augmentation of the vicar's maintenance. It seems to have been in reference to this arrangement that Primate Boulter is stated to have allotted a maintenance for a second curate here, who was therefore bound to give public service every Sunday in the afternoon, and prayers twice every day. Of Doctor Mossom Wye, who was incumbent of this church at the period, Primate Boulter, in one of his letters to Lord Carteret, in July, 1726, writes, "I have received a letter from Doctor Wye of Drogheda (whom your Lordship was so kind as to make your chaplain, and to encourage him to hope for somewhat in the Church), to desire, that if Dean Howard shall be made Bishop of Cloyne, your Excellency would be pleased to bestow on him the Deanery of Ardagh and Chantorship of Christ

Church; he has been a great many years minister of Drogheda, which is a considerable cure."

In 1740, the old church was entirely removed, and the present edifice was soon afterwards erected on its site, and in 1771, the Corporation paid £300 for an organ to be erected herein. In 1767, the vicar, Ephraim Cuthbert, obtained a lease from the Corporation of a strip of ground on the east side of Magdalen-street, to hold to him and his successors for a term of 999 years, at the yearly rent of sixpence, and his successor, the Reverend Mr. Loftus, in 1780, had a similar grant of "a parcel of ground, with coach house thereon, lying on the west side of St. Peter's churchyard, and on the east side of Magdalen-street," at the yearly rent of one shilling. In 1770, a sum of money was sought to be raised by lottery, for improving the Boyne, and erecting a spire on the steeple of this church, but the sale of the tickets not proving sufficient, the money was returned to the purchasers. In 1774, the Corporation ordered the old town clock to be presented for the use of the church, and in 1789 they voted £100 towards procuring a ring of bells for it. In 1791, however, on an information having been filed against them, in relation to the salary for the singing men and boys in this church, they presented a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant. This important document states the Charter of King James the First, in the 16th year of his reign, granting various lands and tenements to the Corporation, at the rent of 5s., with a condition

that they should for ever after pay yearly salaries out of said premises to certain singing men and boys, besides the establishing of an organist and parish clerk in this church, making a total charge of £54, which was paid by the Corporation until the church of St. Peter's was destroyed, during Cromwell's usurpation. That on the Restoration, the inhabitants not being able to rebuild it, the chancel was repaired at the charge of the Corporation, and the payment of the £54 was discontinued. That, when the church was afterwards rebuilt, they, at the request of the Primate, allowed the £54 (which they conceived they were then liable to pay) to the vicar of this church, to enable him to pay one or more curates, until a choir should be established. That King William the Third granted a new charter to their body, of all their present possessions, reserving a rent to the Crown, of £47 18s. 7d., which, with £6 salary to the clerk of this parish, and £6 collector's fees, made a total sum exceeding the £54 originally reserved for singers, the establishment of whom had ceased for fifty years immediately preceding the date of King William's charter; nor has it been since renewed, nor is its re-establishment in contemplation. That the latter charter contained no reference to the covenant in the former for the singers, but on the contrary, contained an express discharge by the Crown to the Corporation, from the payment of all other rents whatsoever, save said £47 18s. 7d., which has been punctually paid. That they, how-

ever, continued to allow the £54 for the maintenance of a curate, till 1720, when Lord Primate Lindsay prevented such application, by causing an information to be filed in the name of the Attorney-General, for an account on foot of the £54 from the Restoration, alleging that its appropriation for maintaining a curate was a misapplication (though made at the instance of the Primate). That thereupon the Corporation, in 1721, petitioned the Lord Lieutenant, when a release of said arrears was granted under the great seal, and from that time the payment of the £54 was wholly discontinued, it being advised that the sanction of the Court of Chancery was necessary to justify the application. The petition states other similar proceedings against the body, founded on the supposition that the lands in their possession were chargeable with the payment of the £54 annually. That they, conceiving they were so chargeable, were induced, in 1773, at the instance of the Primate, to memorial the Lord Lieutenant, with the object of obtaining his Majesty's consent for the application of said sum to the maintenance of a curate, but it has been lately suggested by council, that all payments on foot of the £54 since the charter of William the Third, have been in error, and in their own wrong. The petitioners then stated recent similar vexatious proceedings, after so many discontinuances and lapses, and by which it was sought to sell part of the corporate lands for arrears, and relied that they were not bound by the admissions of their

predecessors, so in ignorance of their chartered rights, and their public duties and responsibilities; that a cess adequate for the repair of roads, and other public purposes, could not be raised without causing great distress to the common order of the inhabitants, to prevent which the body have constantly applied a great part of their revenues to diminish local taxation, and retrenched their own expenses, and the salaries of their officers, to meet such charitable appropriations. They also stated, that so considerable a part as 400 acres, in the counties of Meath and Louth, granted by King James's said charter as a consideration for payment of said £54, was granted by the Corporation in the reign of Charles the Second to the vicar of St. Peter's and his successors, in fee farm, at a small rent, in order to increase the income of said vicar, and though by his neglect, and that of his successors, they and the Corporation have been deprived of some of those lands, the part in possession of the vicar at this day, yields a rent equal to the amount of the salary alleged to have been paid to the curate, exclusive of other fee farms, demised at later periods to the vicar of this parish and his successors, several plots held by them under the charter of James, on which the vicarage house and the offices adjoining are erected, and a large garden attached to the said house, at the small rent of 5s.; that the Corporation have also made considerable voluntary contributions for the use of said church, &c. The petitioners, therefore, prayed that his Excellency

would cause the proceedings then instituted to be suspended until the charter of William the Third should be inspected, and their rights ascertained. The precise appropriation, which it was the object of those proceedings to effectuate, does not appear to have been obtained, nor is there any regular stipendiary curate at this day; but, by arrangement amongst the parties, the £54 (late currency) was applied, £42 for maintaining, &c., singing men and boys, £6 for the organist, and £6 for the parish clerk, which distribution was further regulated by a resolution of the Assembly, on the 8th of October, 1800; it would seem, however, that a subsequent apportionment has assigned £45, late currency, making £41 10s. 9d. of the present, or, according to the return of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1836, £43 7s. 8d., to the vicar, which is continued by the present body.

In 1804, the Corporation voted to the Rev. Mr. Alley, curate of this church, £40 for every year he had theretofore officiated in same, while a resolution of the Assembly, in 1814, in accordance with the prescribed distribution of the Vicars' Choral money, declared, "that it was the sense of this parish, that the organist should teach the children of the charity school thereof to sing, and be and is hereby required to attend the said children for that purpose in the church, every Sunday morning from the hour of 10 to 11, and every Tuesday in summer from 6 to 7 in the evening, and in winter, from 9 to 10 in the morning."

In January 1823, the venerable Marquess of Drogheda, one of the original Knights of St. Patrick, and a British Peer by creation of 1801, was interred here with great funeral state. The procession was met at the entrance of the town by the Mayor and a numerous assemblage of the Corporation in their robes, anxious to offer the last tribute of respect to the oldest freeman of their city.

The chronological succession of incumbents in this vicarage, as far as has been ascertained, was as follows:

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| 1206. Robert —, Chaplain. | 1667. 27th August, John Roan
[“instituted” to the Deanery
of Clogher, the rectory of
Louth, and this vicarage. He
was afterwards Bishop of Kil-
lala]. |
| 1229. Henry de Florentin [pre-
sented by the Crown]. | 1669. John Hodson, vicar. |
| 1389. William Bragan, Vicar.
[The king had confirmed his
appointment by patent en-
rolled, but recalled his assent
in the following year]. | 1675. 3rd May, Richd. Tenison
[“instituted” to the rectory
of Louth, with this vicarage
and the rectory of Bewly]. |
| 1409. Thomas Rosell, vicar.
[He was afterwards promot-
ed by the Pope to the pre-
bend of Clonmethan, in the
Diocese of Dublin]. | 1682. Tobias Pullen [“insti-
tuted” on Royal presentation
to the same benefices as the
last]. |
| 1415. 22 July, John White,
vicar. [On the presentation
of the Prior of Lanthony]. | 1694. Thomas Cox, vicar [on
royal presentation]. |
| 1549. William Hamlyn, vicar. | 1719. 16th July, Mossom Wye
[“admitted” to this vicar-
age]. |
| 1620. Henry Leslie, vicar. | 1729. 6th Nov. Peter Hughes
[“instituted”]. |
| 1634. Nicholas Barnard [pre-
sented by the Crown]. | |
| 1637. 10th February, George
Baker [“instituted”]. | |

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| 1753. 5th November, Ephraim Cuthbert ["instituted"]. | 1829. 28th July, John Magee ["instituted to this vicarage in the place of Wardlaw Ball by the Lord Chancellor; the Marquess of Drogheda, the true patron, being a lunatic"]. |
| 1779. 5th September, Smyth Loftus ["instituted"]. | |
| 1782. 13th September, George Lambert ["instituted"]. | |
| 1804. Sept ^r ., Wardlaw Ball [instituted on the resignation of George Lambert]. | 1837. Rev ^d . Arthur Wynne, the present incumbent. |

The register of this church extends through six volumes. The first and most interesting comprises the interval from 1654 to 1704. At its commencement occur several notices of *persons* "three several Sundays, at the close of the morning service in Drogheda, published, and afterwards married," by the mayor or some justice of the peace; as, Thomas Rees and Catherine Branstone, by the worshipful Samuel Stanbridge, mayor, in 1656; Nicholas Urell and Judith Glome, by Joseph Trale, minister of God's word, as approved of by the aforesaid worshipful Samuel Stanbridge; Patrick St. Laurence, and Jane Plunket, by Justice Fingall, on the 10th of September, 1658." The burials succeed in order, and lastly baptisms; in the latter the hour of birth is usually given, as "about eight o'clock in the morning," "betwixt eight and nine of the clock." Some of the burial entries are worth notice, as in 1672, "Christopher, the son of John Griswith, a Papist, was buried."—"Courcy, an aged poor man, died out of the poor-house and was buried the same day."—"Corporal Baily of Armagh, died at the inn the sign of the Ship, and was buried 7th January."—"William Clarke,

a stranger, died on the highway, and was buried at Killaneer, 25th January."—"1673, 2nd April, John, son of Teddy *Carolán*, buried."—"1687-8, 2nd March, old Nan *Cromwell* buried." The first registered marriage after the battle of the Boyne, was on the 9th July, 1690. The second volume of the Register comprises from April, 1702, to August, 1748, giving the christenings, marriages, and burials in each month successively. The third commences in January, 1748, and extends to June, 1823, with a chasm of twenty years, from 1782 to 1803. A fourth ancillary volume, contains from 1804 to 1811, and a fifth from 1816 to 1823, from which period another Book continues the records to the present day.

Although this church was the burial place of so many prelates, and in more modern times of so many members of the illustrious house of Moore, not a monument exists to commemorate their obits; there are others, however, as follow. At left of the communion table is a white marble slab, to the memory of Alderman Francis Leigh, who represented the town in Parliament for upwards of thirty years, died 1778; to his wife Anne Leigh, otherwise Bingham, died 1773; and their daughter, Anna Maria, died 1779. Near it is another mural monument to the Right Honorable Henry Singleton, who in early life was Recorder of this town, afterwards successively Prime Serjeant, Lord Chief Justice, and lastly Master of the Rolls, and died in 1760; this memorial was erected by his nephew Sydenham Singleton, Esq. At the opposite side of the communion table

is a monument, erected at the expense of the corporation, to the late Sergeant John Ball, who died in 1813; near it another to the Reverend John Magee, son of a former Archbishop of Dublin, and who had been vicar of this parish. On the gallery walls are mural slabs to Doctor Tobias Pullen, Bishop of Drogheda, who died in 1712; to Elish Walker, S. T. P. died 1701; to the Rev. William Godley, prebendary of Mullabrack, county Armagh, died 1779; another to John Godley, Esq., (son of said Rev. William), died 1806; a white marble monument to the Ogles; another to the wife of Judge Jebb, died 1833; to Captain Hyde, died 1820, &c.

The sepulchral records of the graveyard may be thus alphabetically arranged:

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| Acklands of Drogheda, from 1742. | eda, ob ^t . 1779. |
| Armstrongs, from 1779. | Boyd, Mrs., of Drogheda, 1826. |
| Atkinsons, from 1730. | Broughtons, from 1737. |
| Ball, Rev. Sterne, ob ^t . 1777; he was father to the late Serg ^t . John Ball. The stone also commemorates some of his descendants. | Cadell, Robert, formerly Sheriff of Drogheda, died 1637. |
| Barlow, Maurice, of Drogheda, obiit 1804; and to his family. | Campbells of Dublin, from 1779. |
| Barry, Mr. William, died 1832; and to his family. | Campbell, Captain Duncan, of the Town of Drogheda steam boat, born at Glendernwell, in the highlands of Scotland. |
| Birds of Drogheda. | Chapman, William, collector of Drogheda, died 1795. |
| Blackers of Drogheda, from 1801. | Charter, William, Esq., of Northumberland, late of the 16th regiment of foot, died 1762. |
| Bourke, Theobald, of Drogheda, | Chesshires, formerly of Shrewsbury, containing particulars |

- of their genealogy, from 1694 to 1820.
- Clarke, Mr. Samuel, Schoolmaster of Drogheda, died 1753; and to his family.
- Coddington, Mrs. Sarah, died 1831.
- Crookes, Leonard, ob^t. 1821.
- Cuthberts, from 1736.
- Davises, from 1803.
- Dixon, Thomas, formerly Mayor of Drogheda, died 1689.
- Dowd, Reverend George, Parish Priest of Dromiskin, died 1806.
- Dromgooles, from 1760 to 1792.
- Elliot, —, merchant of Drogheda, 1791.
- Fagans, from 1813.
- Fairtloughs, from 1753.
- Fairtlough, Reverend Thomas, died 1791, having been perpetual curate of Moylary for 29 years.
- Ffeelys, from 1782.
- Ferguson, Rev. Thomas, D. D., ob^t. 1775.
- Ferguson, Mrs., wife of the Rev. Joshua Ferguson of Ballymoyer, died 1833. This monument is stated to have been erected by her son Joshua Ferguson, Esq., of Van Dieman's Land.
- Fisher, Mrs. Margaret, died 1795. She is stated, on the stone, to have been the eldest daughter of the Rev. John Brett, D. D., and lineally descended from Lord Chancellor Clarendon.
- Fleming, James, Merchant of Drogheda, ob^t. 1756.
- Fleming, Francis, son of Matthew Fleming; and to Frances, daughter of John Fleming, deceased.
- Fleming, Matthew, died 1703.
- Floods of Drogheda.
- Folds, Doctor John, Rector of Old Connel, County Kildare, died 1782.
- French, Colonel John, of the 71st Regiment, died 1812.
- Gartside, Alderman, of Drogheda, ob^t. 1769.
- Gibbons, Doctor, ob^t. 1813, and to his family.
- Gibson, Rev. John, Rector of Clonmore, County Louth, ob^t. 1794, and to some of his ancestors.
- Godfrey, Alderman John, died in 1734.
- Godley, Reverend William, Prebendary of Mullabrack, died 1779; and to his son.
- Goldsmith, Rev. Isaac, Dean of Cloyne, 1769.
- Goold, Reverend P., 1785.
- Hardmans, from 1811.

Harpurs of Mell, from 1723 to 1784.

Heron, Thomas, Esq., of the General Post Office, Dublin, died in 1832, of cholera.

Hyde, Captain William, of the 72nd Regiment of Highlanders, son of John Hyde, Esq., of Montague-square, London, died 1829, aged 28.

King, Mrs., relict of Gilbert King, Esq. (M.P. for Jamestown), died 1801.

Leigh. A monument to this family, stated thereon to have been once of the highest respectability in Drogheda, but now extinct.

Lelands, from 1741 to 1792.

Leland, Alderman John, died 1838.

Leslie, Rev. William, died 1795.

Lindsays, from 1816.

M'Caule of Drogheda, from 1801.

M'Culloch, John Shaw, Esq., family of.

Magee, Rev. John, died 1837.

Marshall, Alderman John, died 1785. This stone also commemorates his ancestors and descendants.

Meades of Drogheda, to 1709.

Nesbitt, Rev. William, Rector of Stackallen, died 1799.

Norman family.

Norris, Richard, D.D., formerly the Head of the Drogheda School, ob^t. 1789.

Ogle, Henry, died 1675, and his descendants.

Osborne, Master Charles, son of Judge Osborne, died 1809.

Parker, Richard Leslie, Esq., Barrack-Master of Drogheda, died 1824, and to his family.

Patten, Alderman William, died 1710.

Petrie, Surgeon James.

Plunkett, Patrick, Alderman, ob^t. 1st March, 1708; and to Catherine Plunkett his wife. The family armorials are carved at the head of the stone.

Reed, Captain, of the North Down Regiment, died in Drogheda. This monument was erected by his brother officers.

Roche, John, son of David Roche of Cork, died 1799.

Schoaleses of Drogheda, from 1722.

Shegog, Richard, of Glack, County Louth, died 1839.

Shekleton, Mr., of Drogheda, died 1802, and to his family.

Singletons, a family monument.

Smith, Jeremiah, of Beabeg, and family.

Smith, Robert, of Drogheda, died 1702.	Steele, —, daughter of Colonel Steele of the East India Com- pany's Service, ob ^t . 1821.
Smyth, Doctor, Bishop of Li- merick; a monument to his family.	Vanhomrigh, John, ob ^t . 1785.
Stanford, Mrs., of the County Cavan, died 1816.	Wynne, Mrs., of Ballyboys, died 1808.

Embedded in the wall, at the north-east corner of this cemetery, is a very old monument, to Edmund Goulding of Peristown, and to Elizabeth Fleming, second daughter of the Baron of Slane. Near it is another monument to one of the Cadell family, but the dates are not at present traceable; also one to Nicholas Darditz, formerly of Drogheda, who died in February, 1516, William Darditz his son, and Matilda Netterville his wife; several other monuments of great antiquity are inserted in the same wall, especially one about ten feet high, representing two skeletons, extending the whole length of the stone, but all are so buried in mortar or clay, that their inscriptions, where at all visible, are extremely apocryphal. The state of the whole churchyard betrays equal neglect and disregard of its sacred purpose, and many of the tombstones are so incrustated with clay, or overrun with weeds, that it is impossible to trace them, without sacrilegious trespass on the soil. In the yard of the sexton's house, neglected and unknown, lies the fragment of a magnificent font, that formerly occupied a conspicuous place in this church, a very beautiful specimen of ancient art, and, being composed of limestone, the produce of the neigh-

bouring quarries, may be presumed to have been the work of a native sculptor. In form it is an octagon, a figure usually employed by the ancient Christian Irish in the construction of baptisteries, as was exemplified at Mellefont, St. Doulogh's, &c. The entire outer surface is elaborately carved; the front contains an escutcheon empaled baron and femme, supported by two angels in a kneeling posture, the bodies and limbs of which are represented as covered with plumage; three of the compartments have been destroyed, but probably corresponded with three of those that remain, which are each divided into two circular-headed niches deeply recessed, each niche containing the figure of an apostle, distinguished by his peculiar badge: thus, St. Andrew with his cross, St. Paul with a sword, &c.; the remaining division is occupied by a representation of the baptism of Christ; the soffets are each filled by the figure of a demi-angel, with wings displayed, supporting a plain scroll; in the corners of the soffets are the rose and shamrock. The angles of the entire font are ornamented by a continuous wreathing or chain-work, which is also continued round, and forms the outline of the arched niches; there are neither dates nor inscriptions, and the base is finished by a roped member. The arms in the escutcheon are: first, azure a bend voided argent, in chief a star of the second; secondly, argent, two lions rampant azure, the latter coat is that belonging to the name of Mildmay; it also appertains, with a charge of tincture, to the fa-

mily of Fynes of Fynestown Castle near Navan, so conjectures Mr. R. Armstrong, the ingenious writer of an article in the Dublin Penny Journal of 1833, page 357, from which the above description is extracted. "I have not been able," he adds, "to find an appropriation of the first coat, but have discovered it with the bearing reversed (the sign of illegitimacy), empaled with that of Dardis, in St. Peter's churchyard. The carving is in bold relief, and skilfully executed; a good deal of tasteful design is manifested in the disposition of the drapery of the first figure in each compartment. The other figures are clothed in close plaited tunics; the sharpness of the engraving is worn off by time and abuse, and the features defaced, but the tonsured head and peaked beard are still discernible; on the whole, it has been well worthy of occupying the prominent situation it undoubtedly formerly held;" but, after sustaining the sacrilege of the Iconoclasts, it is yet more reproachfully neglected and desecrated in its present position.

St. Mary's Parish and Church.—The parish of St. Mary contains 1426A. 3R. 20P., the soil of the rural district being of excellent quality. The annual tithes were compounded for at £105, payable to the lessee of the Marquess of Drogheda, who is the impropiator, and bound to pay thereout £80 2s. 11d. to the incumbent; the patronage of the vicarage is now, however, in the Bishop of Meath. Ancient valuations of this parish also are of record in the State Paper Room Council Office, and the annual amount of its

parochial vestry assessment was returned, in 1832, as £57, on an average calculation of the three preceding years. Besides the above stipend from the impropiator, the vicar also receives £30 per annum from Evans's fund, payable by the Diocesan; £30 from the rent or value of five acres of glebe; and about £3 from churchyard fees; but no minister's money is charged in this parish. He has also a glebe-house in the town, purchased in 1809, for £600, by the late Board of First Fruits. This little benefice, by the description of "Vicaria de Ponte," was rated, in the time of King Henry the Eighth, to the First Fruits, at £6 13s. 4d. The present church is the second erected since that which was demolished by Cromwell. It is a small modern edifice, capable of accommodating 200 persons, and was built in 1810, by a previous gift of £600, and a loan of £500 from the late Board of First Fruits. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently assigned £175 towards its repair. Divine service is performed here twice on Sundays during the summer months, and once during the remainder of the year, and on the festivals; while the sacrament is administered nine times annually. There are here, in connexion with the National Board, a male and female school, the former affording education to 189 boys, the latter to 170 girls.

This was not originally a parochial secular church, but was founded by the towns-people for friars; and, having been dedicated to the Blessed

Virgin, was not inaptly, from its situation, called St. Mary's of Mount Carmel, and, accordingly, its fraternity early adopted the rules and discipline of the Carmelites. Erected, as it was, on the most elevated part of the southern division of Drogheda, and filling the south-eastern angle of the town wall, where it ran along the brink of a deep precipitous valley, its defences as a military position (and to such uses was it subsequently, from necessity, converted), were, by nature and art, exceedingly strong. It was early subjected, by Walter de Lacy, to the priory of St. Cienan of Duleek, and is said to have derived a portion of its support from the tolls on butter entering the town at St. John's gate, the ruin of which is still denominated the Butter gate(*a*). De Lacy afterwards granted this church, with Duleek, in frankalmoigne, to the house of Lanthony near Gloucester, which latter donation was subsequently confirmed by King John, Edward the Second, and Edward the Fourth. By inquisition taken in 1307, it appears, that the Corporation had theretofore granted to this establishment, eighty square virgates of land, each virgate containing from twenty to forty acres, as local custom prescribed. In 1310, the Carmelites of this house had a further grant, which is of record in the Tower of London; and in 1345, Richard Fitz William, Mayor of Drogheda, had license to assign

(*a*) The southern tower of the west front of the cathedral of Rouen, is also called the Butter Gate, possibly for the same reason.

four acres of land adjoining the same, for increasing and maintaining lights before the statue of the Blessed Virgin here.

In 1376, when King Edward the Third directed the remarkable summons, hereafter more particularly alluded to in the General History, whereby he required representatives of the clergy, counties, and boroughs of Ireland, to attend a Parliament to be held at Westminster, the Bishop of Meath sent "Master Bartholomew Dullard," rector of this church, as the representative of his Lordship and his clergy, to advise the Crown on the state of Ireland, but reserving any power of taxing the said diocese. In 1387, Nicholas Burgess fled to the sanctuary of this church, and there, before the coroners of this town, confessed himself guilty of the murder of Thomas Melaghlin at Ardee, and duly abjured the land, whereupon Dundalk was assigned as the port whence he should depart. In 1393, King Richard the Second granted the advowson of this church, and of the chapel of St. Nicholas, which was then thereto annexed, to the Prior and Convent of Lanthony(a). There were three other chapelries at this time, also annexed to this religious house, respectively dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St. Catherine, and St. Patrick, as is proved by a donation of bells presented to each of them by William Symcock and Agnes his wife, about the year 1412. One of the

(a) Rot. Claus. 18 Ric. II. in Canc. Hib.

Acts passed in the Parliament of Drogheda in 1468, confirmed a grant of chief rents to this house. At the close of the sixteenth century, Lord Viscount Moore had a royal grant of the rectory and tithes of this church, the fee of which was confirmed to him and his descendants, by patents of 1612, 1619, and 1640. In Ussher's Visitation Book of 1622, this vicarage is stated to have been taxed at £6 13s. 4d., but to be then of the value of twenty nobles sterling; Lord Moore impropiator and patron, Mr. Robert Burton incumbent. This Return describes the church as large, and both it and the chancel in indifferent repair, and adds, "there is neither house nor glebe, save only room for a house." The circumstances attending Cromwell's siege of the town, as particularly affecting this church, are detailed in the General History at that period. In 1667, Sir Henry Tichburne, having died at Bewly, was buried in this church, "which," observes Borlase, "owed a rite to his ashes, who, with so much vigilance and excellent conduct, had preserved it and the town." In 1669, the Corporation demised to Bartholomew Doyle, part of the possessions of this house, including a pigeon-house, orchard, and 100 acres of meadow outside St. James's gate, at the annual rent of fifty-five shillings; and in 1677, demised other portions thereof to Arthur Ley. In June, 1690, King James the Second, while in Dublin, presented Doctor Patrick Cusack to the rectory of Duleek, with the vicarage of St. Mary of Drogheda, and all its

rights. Doctor Dopping's return of 1693 states this vicarage as then worth £10, but that the vicarial part is swallowed by the impropiator; the church large, but no incumbent, the cure being served by the vicar of St. Peter's. A subsequent Visitation Book of about 1699, states the "rector" hereof entitled to a certain scope of land without the churchyard, which is defended by metes and bounds, as from entries in the "Black Book of the Prior of Lanthony, in the custody of Draycot of Mornington." This Return also recognizes the foundation of the chapelries before mentioned, as existing here. In 1699, the rectory and tithes were conveyed to uses, as more particularly mentioned at St. Peter's.

In 1713, Lord Drogheda leased to Alderman William Norman, the rectorial and impropriate tithes of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Peter for sixty-one years, at the annual rent of £41. In 1721, he conveyed to uses, a parcel extending from the Tooting Tower to the Primate's house; a cellar on St. Saviour's Quay; the rectory of the parish church of St. Peter, with the tithes, both great and small; the rectories of St. Mary and St. James in the town of Drogheda, with the tithes, both great and small; and in 1745, his descendant, Earl of Drogheda, conveyed the advowson and right of patronage of this vicarage to the Bishop of Meath, and his successors, for ever. It was not, however, until 1771 (within three years of the expiration of the term granted to Alderman Norman), that the rectorial and impropriate

tithes of this parish were, in consideration of £1,320, conveyed by the Earl, to the Primate and to the Bishop, who, immediately afterwards, conveyed same to the incumbent, and his successors in the vicarage. The possession does not, however, seem to have passed out of the aforesaid lessee and his representatives, who, it would seem, still enjoy said tithes, subject to the stipend before mentioned, in consequence of some general arrangement to that effect; as, in 1833, the parishioners compounded for all the tithes of said parish at £105 per annum, to be paid to the representative of Isaac Norman, Esq., deceased, said representative agreeing to pay out of this sum £80 2s. 11d. annually to the vicar, according to deeds of 1771 and 1790, therein particularly mentioned, same to be for the vicar's salary, and in which the small tithes are included. In 1718, Mr. John Shepherd had a lease of part of the premises of the Carmelites for sixty-one years; and in 1724, Alderman John Godfrey had a lease of all those parcels of land commonly called Blackbush, and part of St. Mary's churchyard, for sixty-one years, at the annual rent of £6, half whereof was reserved to the use of the poor of St. John's Poor-House; and in 1727, Alderman Leigh obtained a lease of another part of the possessions of this religious fraternity. The valuations of this church, from 1725 to 1805, are of record in the State Paper Room Council Office. In 1781, the Corporation voted twenty guineas towards roofing this church; and in 1810, con-

veyed a dwelling-house, offices, and gardens, to the use of the vicar of this parish, and his successors.

The chronological succession of incumbents in this benefice, as far as has been ascertained, was as follows :

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1376. Bartholomew Dullard,
Rector. | to the vicarage of St. Mary
de Pont, <i>juxta</i> Drogheda”]. |
| 1386. Robert Sutton. [In which
year, having exchanged with
Roger Winter, parson of the
church of St. Patrick of
Slane, the king presented
the latter individual to the
benefice]. | 1763, 25th April. Thomas Fer-
guson [“collated,” says the
entry in the First Fruits
Books, but the word “col-
lated” appears written over
an erasure]. |
| 1387. Roger Winter. | 1768, 9th June. Samuel Lind-
say [“instituted”]. |
| 1615. John Egerton, vicar. | 1788, 30th June. Charles Craw-
ford [“instituted”]. |
| 1618, 2nd Nov. Robert Bur-
ton [“admitted” to the vi-
carage of the Blessed Virgin
Mary “de Pont de Drogh-
eda”]. | 1821, 22nd Oct. James Craw-
ford [“collated” to this vi-
carage, vacant by the resig-
nation of Charles Crawford;
yet the entry adds, “presen-
tation in the Marquess of
Drogheda”]. |
| 1708. John Echlin, vicar [by
royal presentation; yet the
First Fruits Book says of
this appointment “collated | |

The Register of baptisms, marriages, and burials, only commences here in 1811, but has been since almost regularly continued.

Of the extensive proportions and architectural character of the buildings, which originally appertained to the Carmelite friary here, some broken walls at the east end of the present building, and

some foundations (now sodded over) at a considerable distance, are the sole memorials. On the decay of this building, a chapel for divine service was constructed amidst the ruin, and subsequently, the present church was erected. About thirty years since, the steeple was ordered to be taken down, and at the same time, the great north boundary, which was a portion of the town wall, and very high, was levelled; there are yet, however, considerable remains of the southern wall, with port-holes through it, and arched buttresses on the inside.

In the church are no sepulchral monuments, those of the graveyard may be thus alphabetically arranged:

Ansell, George, of Upper Deal,
in Kent, Inspector over the
Barrack works here, ob^t.
1839.

Ball, Robert, of Ball's Grove,
died 1775.

Carmichael, Reverend John,
1761.

Cusack, Dr. James, died March,
1744.

Delahoyde and Hill. This, the
oldest tombstone in the ce-
metery, commemorates mem-
bers of these families in the
words following: "Here lieth
the body of Richard Hill,
sometime twice Mayor of this
town of Drogheda, deceased,
and of Jenet Hill, his daugh-

ter, mother unto Thomas
Delahoyde, sometime Mayor
of the same, whose body here-
under lyeth, deceased the
16th of August, 1525, and
Eliza —ing, his wife." The
inscription is in basso relievo,
and runs round the margin,
enclosing the armorials in
the centre.

Harpurs of Drogheda, from
1820.

James, wife of Alderman Ri-
chard, 1695.

Kegans of Drogheda, from
1737.

Ledwich, Christopher, 1624.
This ancient monument, con-
sidered by Grose to refer to

- Christopher Ledwich, who had been one of the Sheriffs of this town, was very elaborately sculptured with armorials, but, lying as it does on the ground, and half buried in the soil, its characters are now hardly legible.
- Lill, Reverend William, rector of Ardee and Churchtown, died 1775.
- Mac Loughlin, Cornelius, merchant, 1773.
- Matthews, Thomas, Esq., of Drogheda, 1803.
- Metcalfes of Drogheda.
- Ridgeways of Drogheda, from 1819.
- Scholes, Alderman James, died 1817.
- Skelly, Luke, a monument to his family, stated thereon to be of Ayrshire extraction.
- Smiths of Drogheda, from 1767.
- Tandy, John, Esq., of Drogheda, died 1803.
- Turner, Mr. Thomas, Surveyor of this port, ob^t. 1758. He was born, as the stone states, at Lewes, in Sussex. It also commemorates his daughter buried thereunder in 1758, and his son in 1767.

A narrow path runs under the walls of this graveyard at the outer side, overlooking a picturesque valley called the Dale, that lies between the Naul and Balbriggan roads, but is now nearly filled with miserable huts. At its head is a celebrated spring called Patrick's Well, while, through the bottom of the little glen, flows a small stream, that, after supplying James's-street brewery, falls into the Boyne. About 400 yards eastward was the Bevrack mount (recently levelled by a farmer for agricultural uses), whence Cromwell battered St. Mary's and the town. A little behind the church, on the western descent to this valley, a pretty view is had of a portion of the town at the gorge of the Dale, with the church in the left foreground.

St. Mark's Free Church is a handsome edifice, erected in 1828, situated in Fair-street; it was designed as a chapel of ease to St. Peter's church, and for the accommodation of families who could not obtain sittings there. Towards the expenses of the edifice the corporation contributed £300; the late Board of First Fruits, £900; the Lord Primate £100; and the balance, about £600, was raised by local subscription. It could accommodate three hundred persons, and is usually attended by about half that number. The benefice ranks as a perpetual curacy, subject to episcopal jurisdiction, without, however, any cure of souls annexed to it, such parochial duty belonging of right to the incumbent of St. Peter's parish. Neither has the minister any glebe or glebe house, but he has been endowed by the corporation with the rectorial tithes of Inismott, in the county Meath, now amounting to £48 15s., while the same body having assigned the patronage to the Lord Primate, he adds £50 yearly to the curate's income. Mr. Hugh Ussher Tighe was the first person appointed to this benefice, to whom Mr. Needham, the present incumbent, succeeded in April, 1834. Divine Service is performed here twice on Sundays in summer, and once in winter, and on Good Friday and Christmas-day, while the Sacrament is administered monthly. The annual charges incident to this perpetual cure were, on its erection, assessed at the vestries holden in St. Peter's parish; in 1830, however, the Lord Primate, with his wonted liberality

upon such occasions, took upon himself the payment thereof, and continued to defray them until, on the passing of the Act for the abolition of church cess, they devolved upon the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Chapel is a spacious and handsome structurẽ, erected after a design of the late Francis Johnstone, Esq., at an expense exceeding £12,000, raised by subscription. It has a handsome gateway and collonade fronting to West-street, and in the porch is a beautiful ancient font, which, it is said, formerly belonged to the chapel of ease for Drogheda, then existing at Killineer. The interior of this edifice is extremely handsome. The parish is co-extensive with that of the Established Church, and is a mensal benefice of the Catholic Primate. Within this chapel, immediately before the altar, are interred his Grace's three last predecessors, Doctors Richard O'Reilly in 1818, Patrick Curtis, in 1832, and Thomas Kelly, in 1835.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel is a large and commodious place of worship, with a neat front of cut stone; the ground was purchased by Michael Duff, Esq., who also contributed largely towards the expenses of its erection, it was finished and consecrated in 1825. Within it, elevated against a side wall, is a handsome monument to the memory of the Reverend Michael Collon, who had been the Roman Catholic pastor hereof, and died in 1837. The old parish chapel was founded by the Reverend James

Kieran, in 1763, but was taken down on the erection of this.

There are also in this town *three other Chapels of the Regular Clergy*, dedicated respectively to St. Mary Magdalene, St. Francis, and St. Augustine, the first in Linen-Hall-street, the second in High-lane, and the last in a very obscure lane off Shop-street.

There are likewise *two Nunneries* here, *the Presentation*, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and situated in Fair-street, gives gratuitous education to poor females, as noticed hereafter; and *the Sienna*, or Dominican, which has a department for the instruction of young ladies, it is situated on a commanding eminence, and is a prominent object in the view entering the town. It was established in 1722, on an endowment of Doctor Netterville of Cruise-rath, and other contributors, and in consequence of an application made with that object to the Court of Rome, by Doctor Mac Mahon, Roman Catholic Primate; when Catherine Plunkett, a relative of his Grace's celebrated predecessor, Oliver Plunkett, was appointed the first prioress. The head of the martyred Prelate is here preserved, as is also a painting of him, and other interesting portraits of Doctor Burke, *alias* De Burgo, author of the *Hibernia Dominicana*; Doctor Mac Mahon, the founder of the institution; Doctor Linnecar; and above all a fine painting of St. Catherine of Alexandria, &c. Annexed to this establishment is a very neat chapel,

with windows of stained glass; there is also within the convent ground a small cemetery for the religious of the house, at the head of which is a large white marble slab, whereon the obits of the deceased nuns are recorded.

The name of Doctor Plunkett suggests too much of historic interest, to be passed over without a brief notice of his piety and sufferings. Descended from one of the noblest families in Ireland, he received his education in the Ludovician College at Rome, where he graduated as a Doctor of Divinity; in 1669 he was promoted by Pope Clement the 9th to the see of Armagh, and, Ireland being then under the wise and tolerant administration of Lord Berkley, Doctor Plunkett was enabled to effectuate his pious labours, and to diffuse through his province a spirit of Christian love and mutual forbearance. He is accordingly characterized by Bishop Burnett, as "a wise and sober man, who was for living quietly and in due submission to the government." The innocence and sanctity of his life were not, however, sufficient to shield him from the malevolence of enemies, by whose artifices he was accused of holding a treasonable correspondence with the French Court, and they had even the unblushing hardihood to affirm, that 20,000 Frenchmen were, at his instance, to land at Carlingford, where they were to be joined by the Prelate himself, at the head of 70,000 more. Under this incredible charge he was seized in December, 1679, and transmitted to London in 1680,

but the jury there refused to find the bills. The informers, however, obtained an accession in their conspiracy, and new indictments were framed and found against the Archbishop. The amended charges accused him of soliciting the invasion of Ireland by the French King; exacting money from the Irish clergy for promoting that object; enlisting domestic forces in aid of such an attempt; and encouraging the gentlemen of the north to take up arms for the recovery of their ancient estates. Evidence for his defence, either oral or documentary, was difficult, indeed impracticable of attainment, at the hour and place of his trial. He could only appeal to the sense of his jury, and the improbability of the charge; adding that the Irish clergy were so poor, that he himself, the head of a whole province, lived in a little thatched house, with only one servant, having never above sixty pounds yearly income, so that neither he nor they could be deemed likely to effect such designs. Defence was nevertheless ineffective; he was sentenced to an ignominious death, dragged on a sledge to Tyburn, and there executed on the first of July, 1681, with his latest breath invoking heaven to witness his innocence. After his execution, his head was severed from his body, the latter divided into quarters and buried in the churchyard of St. Giles in the Fields; at the expiration of two years it was raised and conveyed to the Benedictine monastery of Lambspring in Germany; the head, however, "even yet adorned with silvery hair, and

in excellent preservation," is enshrined in this nunnery. Hume records his unqualified abhorrence of this murderous execution, and some interesting particulars concerning the sufferings and remorse of his accusers, are given in Stuart's "History of Armagh." Salmon, in his Abridgment of the State Trials, says, that while this Prelate lay under sentence of death, the Earl of Essex informed the king that the evidence against him could not be true, when Charles answered, "why did not you attest this at his trial, it would have done him good then; I durst pardon nobody; his blood must lie upon your head, and not upon mine."

The Presbyterian House of Worship, for members of that Church, in connexion with the General Assembly, is a neat and commodious structure, it stands in Palace-street, and was erected in 1827, at an expense, including the minister's house, of £2000, towards which the corporation contributed £300. In turning up the ground designed for this building human bones and crumbled implements of warfare were so thickly set, that it was apprehended a foundation could not be obtained. The Reverend Mr. Boyd is the present pastor, and his general congregation he states as amounting to 300.

The Wesleyan Methodist House stands in Lawrence-street, a neat lancet-windowed building, erected in 1811, and capable of containing 300, the usual congregation being about one-third of that number.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The establishments for the gratuitous education of the poor here are,

St. Peter's Male and Female Parochial School, established in 1723, and wholly supported by private contributions, including an annual and continuing donation of ten guineas from the Corporation, by whom the site and surrounding garden were also granted; it affords education to about 100 boys and 80 girls, the school-house being sufficiently capacious, and in a healthy situation.

The Patrician Roman Catholic Free School, in Trinity-street, for the support of which and of an infant school annexed, giving education to 374 boys, the National Board allows £20 13s. 4d. per annum. A slab, inserted in the wall of the infant school, states that "this institution was founded through the benevolent exertions of the Reverend Matthew White, curate of St. Peter's Parish, under the patronage of the Most Reverend Richard O'Reilly, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh in the year 1787, and a lease of this ground at a nominal rent has been liberally granted by the Corporation of Drogheda. The charitable inhabitants thereof caused this school to be erected A. D. 1802." The ground had been previously the site of the Roman Catholic parish chapel. In 1834, Mrs. Mary Browne, widow, left £200, Royal Canal Stock, to the use of this school, and a like sum to the female school next mentioned.

The Presentation Convent Female School, in Fair-street, has a grant of £40 *per annum* from the National Board, and is attended, including the pupils of its Sunday School, by about 460 poor girls. There is *another female school* in the town in connexion with the National Board, which receives £16 annually therefrom, and gives education to 215 girls.

The "Blue School;" towards the maintenance of which the Corporation contributes £42 annually, without exercising any patronage in consideration thereof; the number of boys in this establishment at present is eighteen, the full complement being twenty. The class, from which these children are taken, is generally the destitute orphans of Protestant parents, those that have no parent being preferred. They are here boarded, clothed and educated, at the charge of the subscribers, and, when of sufficient age, are apprenticed to Protestant masters. Another *Charity School*, formerly in Fair-street, but now in Magdalen-street, is attended by 35 boys, and 11 girls, and also partakes of the bounty of the Corporation, receiving therefrom ten guineas annually. Near it an infant school has been recently opened.

The Drogheda Grammar School.—There is also within this parish in Lawrence-street one of the classical institutions, which, by charter of Charles the Second, were established, under the trusts of Erasmus Smith's Charity, "for the children of the founder's tenantry and of other poor children dwelling within two miles of the school." The Reverend Dr.

M'Kay is principal of this seminary, having from the Governors a salary of £100, late currency, and an allowance of £80, for an assistant usher, with the advantages and profits of the pupils. The boarders' house could accommodate 100 boys, containing, as it does, fifteen apartments opening on long and spacious corridors. The schoolhouse consists of a noble central room appropriated for the classical courses, and connected by handsome staircases to the wings, each of which affords two rooms assigned to the English, French, arithmetical, and scientific classes. The play ground is well enclosed, while a covered walk affords recreation in unfavourable weather. The head master's residence is a fine mansion, with a front elevation of sixty feet, as shown at the left side in the view of Lawrence's gate and street hereafter. The Corporation gave the site of this establishment at a very reduced rent, with the object of its encouragement, and also contributed £10 to the master, in consideration that the sons of freemen should be instructed there without charge. This annual donation has, however, on the discontinuance of gratuitous education, been withdrawn since 1829. The school is at present attended by eighty boys, of whom one-half are boarders. Scholarships in Trinity College, of the yearly value of £12 each, for seven years, are open to this school by Act of Parliament, and have been successfully obtained by Dr. M'Kay's pupils since his appointment.

In the parish of St. Mary is a *National Male*

and Female school, attended respectively by 189 boys and 170 girls, the Board allowing £12 per annum to the master, and £14 10s. to the mistress. There was also a Protestant school here, maintained by the Association for discountenancing Vice, and by the incumbent. Its operations have, however, been suspended, but such children, as might have attended it, are educated in similar schools of the neighbouring parishes, by agreement amongst the several vicars.

Alms Houses.—About the year 1706, Primate Marsh founded an eleemosynary establishment here, for the reception and maintenance of twelve widows of decayed clergymen, who had been curates within the diocese of Armagh, allotting for each widow a residence, and an annuity of £20. He further provided, that, if a sufficient number of such widows should not be found in Armagh diocese, the funds might be so far appropriated to similar objects within the diocese of Meath, and, if not sufficient there, to those of the whole province, and, in case of any deficiency of such persons even there, the residuum to be applied in apprenticing or educating the children of clergymen. In 1726, a similar institution, for the widows of four Protestant clergymen, was founded and endowed by Primate Boulter, after the model of Primate Marsh's, and with a similar provision for apprenticing the children of the widowed inmates of the establishment. Doctor Boulter left directions to the trustees of his will, to purchase lands for better per-

petuating his charitable intentions, and the fund for their trust was returned in 1765, as £62,000, then due upon mortgages, debentures and bonds. The intentions of both Primates are incorporated in the neat uniform buildings off Church-lane, and near St. Peter's church, called the Alleys. Some of those houses it appears, however, are not now allocated, at least in their occupation, to the strict objects of the foundation (as it is alleged), for want of claimants, but are let at certain rents, and the profits thereof applied in the repairs of the whole.

An alms-house, called *the Poor House of St. John*, was also founded here at a very early period, on a grant from the Corporation, who increased their endowment hereof, by appropriating to the maintenance of this charity the rectory and tithes of Inismott, which the body had acquired by charter consequent upon the dissolution of monasteries, and as parcel of the possessions of that truly charitable foundation, the Abbey of St. Mary de Urso^(a). Its income was further increased about the year 1660, by the accession of the funds of another charity, "St. Stephen's Hospital of Magdalen-street," and by

(a) This rectory was, accordingly, found improper in the Corporation of Drogheda by Doctor Ussher's Return of 1622, and in Dr. Dopping's Ecclesiastical Return for Meath in 1693, &c. It has, however, with its tithes (valued at £48 15s.), been, in 1826, alienated from this charity, and leased to the Lord Primate for 999 years, at the yearly rent of £1, the patronage to be in the Primate, and the tithes applied for the support of St. Mark's free church.

private donations. Amongst the latter sources of revenue were, a bequest of £50 by John Godfrey in 1734, which sum the testator directed should be laid out by the Corporation, in the purchase of a rent-charge for the poor on this foundation. Alderman George Schoales of Drogheda also having, in 1799, bequeathed all his interest in premises which he held under the representatives of Mr. John Graham of Platten, the amount of £7 7s. 8d. *per annum*, was allocated to the widows of this house. Colonel Bellew likewise left the annual proceeds of £100, chargeable on the Corporation estate, to be given to the same objects on every Valentine's day, hence called Valentine's money; while Alderman Leigh, being seised in fee of the lands of Prior's Park, situated at Killineer, and containing four acres, devised the same to the Corporation, in trust for such poor house-keepers resident in Drogheda, as the Corporation should appoint, and this bequest, producing thirteen guineas per annum, is assigned for the use of the inmates hereof. A sum of £8, late currency, is likewise carried to their credit from the Commons' fund, as compensation for the right of taking furze off the commons, to which the poor of St. John's were entitled before the commons were enclosed. The whole annual funds from lands, houses, and tenements, now available for the charity, amount to £232 18s. 4d., which is paid in disbursements of £7 10s. per fortnight amongst the inmates, and the balance applied in sundry necessary extras. The benefits of this es-

tablishment have hitherto been confined to the Protestant widows of freemen; it is, however, to be hoped, that an exclusive appropriation of charitable funds will no longer be adopted, where no express trust in the original endowment afforded an excuse, rather than a justification, for such monopoly. The mode of admission is by petition to the assembly, and vacancies are filled by ballot. The number supported is twenty-four, and for them a neat brick building at the top of Peter-street, containing twelve apartments, is appropriated. Two proctors, who act gratuitously, are assigned to superintend its arrangement.

The charity called *the Commons' Fund*, above alluded to, originated in a resolution of the Assembly in 1699, whereby they agreed, that the lands which had been, from time immemorial, on the institution of the borough, set apart for the commons, should be enclosed and rented, and that the revenue derived therefrom should, for ever thereafter, be appropriated for the relief of decayed members of the Corporation, their widows, and orphans, and for no other purpose whatsoever, an appropriation which was further confirmed in 1717. The present rental of these funds amounts to £399, and, in consistence with the liberality of the age and the altered circumstances of the reformed Corporations, this prescriptive source of corporate income must now be more impartially distributed.

An Infirmary is constituted here, under the pro-

visions of the 5 Geo. III. c. 20, and 47 Geo. III. c. 50; and is supported by a corporate grant of £50 *per annum*, the hospital cess, private subscriptions, and a parliamentary allowance of £100 *per annum*, late currency, the average annual expenditure being about £350. It is situated in Great George's-street, and has a dispensary annexed, thus giving relief to about ninety intern patients, and 4000 externs, annually, but the want of a fever hospital is much felt in this populous town: neither had any House of Industry been established here, but a Mendicity Institution was founded in 1822, for whose use the Corporation provided a house rent free, with an expectation that private contributions would defray the current expenses, but this hope was not realized, and the establishment, after a very inadequate existence of a few years, was closed in 1835.

A "splendid" *Poor-house* has been recently erected on a most commanding and healthy eminence at the Meath side of the river. It is capable of containing £800 persons at present, with a facility of extension to accommodate 1000. Within its precincts are a chapel, infirmary, and lunatic asylum; and annexed are fine and well enclosed yards, and an excellent vegetable garden. A school is maintained here which is in connexion with the National Education Board, who afford to it a first supply of books and school requisites gratis, with the privilege of purchasing more at reduced prices when subsequently required. As the guardians of the poor-law

unions comprise men of the highest rank and station, Protestants and Roman Catholics alike, while the duty of religious instruction is consigned to chaplains of the respective creeds, *these* poor schools are perhaps the best qualified to test their efficacy. The numbers educated here were, as last reported, 130 boys and 125 girls.

For the service of the industrious poor, a *Savings' Bank* has been opened in Lawrence-street, and a *Loan Fund Society* is conducted at the Tholsel, without partiality or jobbing, both which establishments have proved great incentives to the exertions and frugality of the lower orders. In reference, however, to loan fund societies generally, it is to be regretted, that the Utopian speculation of requiring permanent and effective services gratuitously, and prescribing arduous duties and irksome responsibilities for benevolent volunteers, has paralyzed in practice, a system most promising in theory, consigned the objects of these institutions too frequently to rural usury, jobbing, and oppression, and their funds to ill-directed uses, and uncontrollable mismanagement.

For other charitable purposes in this town, the following grants and bequests have been from time to time designed.—In 1716, Doctor Cox, then Dean of Ferns and vicar of St. Peter's, purchased a rent-charge of £20 of the currency of the day, payable out of the lands of Killineer within said parish, which he settled, subject to his own life interest therein,

in trust, that the Mayor, Recorder, and Justices of the Peace, or the major part of them, should, from time to time for ever thereafter, apply same "towards the putting out the sons of freemen, members of the Established Church, and who should be freemen of the Corporation of Drogheda, and inhabitants within its liberties for two years at the least next before their death, or before the time of placing out such sons, apprentices to said trades, callings, and employments, and to such masters, being members of the Church of Ireland, as the said Justices, or the major part of them, should think fit, and for and towards the buying and providing such clothes and apparel, for such sons so to be put out, as in such case is usual." This fund is stated to be applied according to the trusts of the donor, and perfectly distinct from the funds allocated for similar objects at the Blue School.—In 1766, Mrs. Arabella Dixie, then of this town, bequeathed (after several small pecuniary legacies to its poor housekeepers), a sum of £145, to the Incorporated Society in Dublin for promoting English Protestant Charter Schools, but, if such a school should be erected in Drogheda, then solely to the use of that school; and in the following year, William Graves, of Drogheda, bequeathed to the said Incorporated Society the sum of £500, for building a charter school and offices in St. Mary's parish, and, if not built within five years from his decease, he ordered said sum to be recalled by his trustees, and laid out for building an infirmary within said parish.

He also left legacies of £50 to each of the parishes of Drogheda; but the administrators of these wills do not appear to have executed the trust so confided to them, nor has the bequest been raised, although, by a vote of the Assembly in 1796, their law agent was directed to prosecute the representatives of Mr. Graves's heir, Graves Chamney.—In 1773, John Ogle, of this town, bequeathed to the use of the poor of the two parishes of St. Mary and St. Peter, £200, to be disposed of in such manner as his executors might deem fit. This legacy is not recognized as at present existing.—In 1779, Susanna Maria Leigh, daughter of Francis Leigh, Esq., bequeathed rents, annually amounting to £63 7s. 11d., for the use of the poor of Drogheda, under certain regulations. The fund was afterwards, by deed, vested in the Lord Primate as a trustee, and is by him duly applied, as stated on a tablet fixed up in the church of St. Peter.—A Miss Gibbons also left £300 for the use of St. Peter's parish, and £200 for that of St. Mary's, the interest of which has been, and still is, distributed to the poor thereof.—In 1805, John Reilly of Prospect, within the liberties of this town, bequeathed £500 in trust, to be applied to charitable uses by his executors; the legacy does not seem, however, in present operation. Subsequently, Mr. Delany, formerly of Stockwell-lane, left £1400, to be dispensed, principal and interest, by the Roman Catholic Primate and his successors, and in Roman Catholic charities, and the annual interest is accord-

ingly distributed among the sick poor of St. Peter's parish.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

The Gaol.—The old prison of this town was built by the Corporation, and partly supported at their expense. It stood at the Meath side of the town in James's-street, on the south side. In it the cells were under ground; the debtors were not separated from the felons; no table of fees controlled extortion; and, being in line with the street, the admission of spirituous liquors was practicable and frequent; yet, with all these abuses, it existed until 1818, when it was taken down, and the materials, together with the ground upon which it stood, were sold, and the produce applied to the erection of the present gaol. This edifice stands on a rising ground, at the north side of the town, where the road issues to Termonfeckin. It is of a square form, surrounded by two walls, and having four yards for felons and misdemeanants, and one for debtors. The interior contains an hospital room, a small chapel, where divine service is duly celebrated according to the necessities and creeds of the inmates, and sixteen cells, six of which are furnished with a small bedstead that admits but one prisoner, the remaining ten accommodate from two to three persons each. It affords but imperfect classification, and, although frequent complaints have been made of the deficiency of inspection, the neglect of education, the absence of a

coercive penitentiary, or of even ordinary employment for the inmates, yet, when visited by the author of this work, there was but one turnkey, no school, no treadmill, nor were there even prison dresses, while the only employment of the inmates was breaking stones for the service of the streets. The funds, requisite for redressing these grievances, have long continued to be unattainable, in consequence of an unsettled controversy, whether houses within the town are liable to the cess, while the county is equally reluctant to aid it. No money was, consequently, received for the current expenses; the salaries of the officers, and engagements to the contractors, became in arrear, besides the yearly instalments still due to the government, for advances made towards the completion of the building. The salaries allotted for the officers of the establishment are, £27 13s. 10d. for the local inspectors; £90 for the chaplains; £73 16s. 11d. for the governor; £20 for turnkeys; and £6 for the matron; while the total annual expenses of fuel, soap, and candles, medicines, stationery, clothing, furniture, and repairs, amount to about £370. It is, however, contemplated, that this very heavy outlay may be diminished, under the powers of the Grand Jury Act, by an arrangement with the Grand Jury of Meath, that all prisoners to be held over for trial in Drogheda, might be confined, during the intermediate interval, in the extensive and well regulated gaol of Trim, the Grand Jury of Drogheda undertaking to pay for the main-

tenance of such prisoners, and at their own risk and cost to transmit them from one place to another. If this arrangement should be effectuated, a bridewell for the temporary detention of prisoners would be sufficient for Drogheda, and a saving of at least £200 *per annum* would be effected. It may be here remarked, that a green, outside Sunday's-gate, was, from a period even more remote than the beheading of the Earl of Desmond, the place for the execution of criminals, while Peter-street was the scene of public pillories.

The Barracks.—In Fair-street are infantry barracks, with an hospital for twenty patients attached, the parade ground is large, but the house small. There are also barracks at Richmond Fort, erected about the year 1808, on a high precipitous bank, that rises abruptly from the river Boyne, and is connected with the Mill-mount by a raised causeway; in the fort are two nine-pounders, on a moveable platform, and its natural strength is further aided by palisades. From the Mill-mount, and yet more from the platform of the Martello tower that crowns its summit, is the most imposing view of the town, river, and surrounding country; from no other point, indeed, could a bird's eye estimate of Drogheda, its improvements and importance, be so well attained.

The Tholsel, filling the corner of West-street and Shop-street, is a spacious and handsome square building of hewn stone, with a fine cupola. It is well adapted for the Assizes, Quarter Sessions, and

other courts that are held there. It has also a handsome assembly-room for the meetings of the Corporation; over the chimney-piece of this apartment is a fine painting of the Battle of the Boyne. Amongst the relics until lately exhibited here, were two kettle-drums, that had been found on the field of the battle of the Boyne, painted in lively colours with the royal arms of the doomed monarch, and his titles. They were beat for him at the battle, and, by the deep stains in the parchment, the drummer appears to have only resigned them with his life, when King William presented them, to be kept in the Town-Hall, which then stood near the site of the present bridge, but was removed to make way for that structure. That old Tholsel, thus here referred to, was a low unshapely building, with a balcony in front where the merchants assembled; while the lower apartments were used as a prison, and the upper for public offices. It is much to be regretted, that the truly interesting kettle-drums have very recently disappeared, but the other regalia and valuables, consisting of the mace, sword, and a halbert, which King William also gave, as mentioned in the Corporate History; and with them also a large silver cup, and a large silver chalice, marked "ex dono prænobilis Henrici Com. Drogheda, 1665;" a silver cup, with the arms of Drogheda, and marked "the gift of Thomas Perceval, 1672;" and another silver cup to match, marked as the gift of Thomas Willis, are all yet preserved in the custody of the present Corpo-

ration, with the gold chain worn by the Mayor during his year of office, and the two gold chains heretofore worn by the two Sheriffs of the town and county, now united for the High Sheriff of the borough.

The Mayoralty-House is a suitable edifice on the quay; it has not, however, for a long time, been the residence of a Mayor, or the scene of any of those civic feasts, that once filled and brightened its fine rooms. In the ball-room are two very interesting paintings of the town, as it appeared above a century since. On one, the tower of the Carmelite friary appears, where Mary's church now stands; the bridge (as at present) is in the centre of this view; beyond it the Butter Tower; and on the edge of the river, at the same side, appears another gate, it may be presumed St. John's. North of the river, between it and the Magdalen, are marked four gates; between the Magdalen and St. Peter's church appears Sunday's gate; then a fine house, possibly the Primate's; after that another steepled church; and last St. Lawrence's gate. The other view purports to be taken near the old barracks on the Mill-mount. In 1810, the Corporation voted a sum of £700 towards the expense of repairing, altering, and furnishing this house.

The Custom-House is immediately adjacent to the latter edifice, and near it is the *Collector's House*, and the *Revenue Office*. The site, on which they have been built, was purchased in 1780, from Mr.

George Schoales, when part of the premises was given by the Corporation to widen the quay.

The Corn-Market is a spacious and commodious building, erected in Fair-street, after a design by the late Mr. F. Johnstone ; the sheds are supported each by a range of large stone pillars ; public sales are held here on every Saturday, but corn is sold and delivered on every day of business by dealers, to the merchants and millers. The supply is chiefly derived from Navan and Oldcastle in Meath, from Cavan, and also from Ardee. All the corn, so carried in and not bought by millers, distillers, and brewers, is exported to England and Scotland, with the exception of about 250 tons sent annually coast-wise, to the North of Ireland and Dublin.

MANUFACTURES.

The Linen-Hall is an extensive building, situated on a piece of ground granted by the Corporation in trust for this purpose in 1770. It lies close to the edge of the river, and contains five halls, where the business of the market for linen yarn and linen cloth is transacted on Saturdays. The north hall was built in 1774, by the exertions of Alderman Chesshire ; the additions have been made since. The manufacture of coarse linen, sail-cloth, canvass ticken, coarse table and towel cloth, and sheetings, was formerly carried on here to a very great extent, so considerably indeed, that £10,000 used to be the average expenditure at this hall on every market day ;

the character of the manufacture, however, declined, in consequence of certain traders mixing the cotton in the warps with the linen, from which, and other causes generally affecting the trade, the sales of linen declined, and the hand-loom weaving suffered proportionably. In evidence, however, given to Parliament in 1836, the average of linen annually manufactured at Drogheda, was calculated at 30,000 pieces, a large proportion of which was consigned to the Dublin market. This revival of the trade may be attributed to the operations of the flax mills recently established in this town. The first of these opened was *the Drogheda Flax Mill*, for the manufacture of linen yarn from tow and flax, for the supply of the weavers; its engine, of 75 horse power, cost £3000, and its funnel, cistern, and gas reservoir are worthy of the works. This mill moves 7652 spindles, and gives present employment to about 250 persons. It stands upon the ground anciently the cemetery of the religious house of St. Mary de Urso, and from its gable windows commands delightful views of Drogheda, the windings of the Boyne, and Oldbridge. Near this, higher up the Boyne, is *the Mell Flax Mill*, worked by two engines, each of 25 horse power, which move 5000 spindles, consume five tons of flax weekly, producing nearly £100 worth of yarn; this employs about 200 hands daily, and is situated in an open and healthy situation, commanding views equally extensive with the last. A third, *St. Mary's Flax Mill*, at the Meath side of the river, is also worked by two

engines, each of 50 horse power; they cost £4000, and are capable of driving 14,000 spindles, in their full operation, its motion is, however, yet limited to a smaller number. It consumes about eight tons of flax per week, and gives employment to 420 persons. For the service of these mills flax is collected from the counties of Cavan, Monaghan, and Armagh, while supplies of yarn are also had from Belfast, Navan, Longford, and Roscommon, as well as from England and Scotland; and thus, about 1500 looms are fed within the town and its immediate liberties, and some diaper ornamented linen is made thereout, but of a coarse quality.

Cotton Mill.—The cotton trade was also formerly carried on here very extensively, perhaps too extensively for the welfare and purity of the linen manufacture, but is now very limited, not employing more than fifteen looms in the town, and is confined to the making of checques and domestic calicoes, which are sold through the country by the manufacturers. The great cause of this decline was the commercial panic of 1825–6, when many of the weavers, both of cotton and linen, emigrated, and it is said that at present, weavers from Drogheda are to be found at Rouen in France, and in America, as well as in Manchester, Wigan, Barnsley, and in the neighbourhood of Dublin. A large mill for spinning cotton has, however, been recently erected on the northern side of the river, at the edge of the liberties, but the proprietor has declined furnishing any par-

ticulars of its works or operations. It has a fine head of fresh water, from which the influx of the river Boyne is ingeniously excluded. Near this are some small works for canvass and sail cloth.

The *tanning* business is still carried on here as extensively, in proportion to former times, as it is in any other part of Ireland, and there are also several *leather manufacturers* who send supplies of that article to Meath, Cavan, and Dublin. For their use bark and valonia are imported from England and by sea from Dublin; one of these manufacturers makes about six tons of glue annually; the *shoe-making* trade is here, however, wholly for the local demand. The making of *soap and candles* is rather largely carried on, and large quantities are sent hence for retail into Meath and Cavan. Of *tobacco manufacturers* there were ten here in 1785, having twelve tobacco tables and twenty-four presses, and manufacturing upwards of 21,000 lbs. of tobacco; the present manufacturers, four in number, use about 36 hogsheads of tobacco in supplying the local trade and some inland towns.—There are also here six *salt works*, consuming annually about 6000 tons of rock salt, the demand for manufactured salt for retail in the interior towns being very great. There were formerly several small *distilleries* in this town, which gave a market for the corn of the surrounding district; but the severity of the excise laws cut down this baneful manufacture, and has left but one establishment of the kind existing in Drogheda, that of

Messrs. Wolsey and Jameson. In 1782, there were 27 stills of between 200 and 600 gallons in the town; the chief distillers of that time being Launcelot Dowdall, William Dardis, Pierce Archbold, James Lynch, John Farrel, Patrick Gernon, John Skelton, Christopher Magrane, &c.—Beer and ale were formerly imported into this town; in 1784, however, there were fifty-three *malt houses*, principally for the supply of the brewers here, there are now but two *breweries*, those of Mr. Gernon and Mr. Cairnes, the character of their ale, that of the latter especially, is however of such repute, that it meets considerable sale in Dublin, and the north of Ireland, and is also exported to England.—There are several large *flour and corn mills* here: as Mr. St. George Smith's, Mr. Hill's, Mr. Green's, Mr. Wriggley's at Newtown, &c. The buildings and machinery of the former cost £20,000, its movements are effected by a steam engine of 50 horse power, and are capable of grinding 40,000 barrels of wheat, and 60,000 barrels of oats annually.—On the south quay are *gas works*, and near them the extensive *iron and brass foundry* of Messrs. Thomas Grendon and Co. This is capable of making the largest castings, and, while several of ten tons weight have been lately, with due respect to native industry, manufactured for the Dublin and Drogheda Railway, it appears this house could make of double that weight if required. Attached to this foundry is a factory for steam engines and boilers, where the largest marine and land steam engines and boil-

ers, as well as steam boilers for agricultural purposes, are manufactured. The average number, to whom this establishment gives employment, is about 200.—In *St. James's Dock-Yard* near this, some fine ships have been built, especially one within the last year, which is designed to trade between Dublin and Australia.—It may be here added, that red *bricks* of fine quality are made near the town, and are sold at the kilns for 30s. a thousand.

COMMERCE, ETC.

Harbour.—The harbour of Drogheda is formed by the outfall of the river Boyne, assisted by the ebb from a considerable tide basin below the town. It was formerly very difficult of access, being very narrow, and having also a bar lying across it, over which vessels could not pass, except at high water. So early as 1703, a committee of Parliament was appointed to prepare a bill for making this river navigable, and it was ordered, that all the representatives of the adjacent counties and boroughs should be of that committee. Little, however, having been done in furtherance of their intention, the Corporation of Drogheda, in 1729, petitioned the Irish Parliament, with the object of having the channel, harbour, and river cleansed, and a Ballast Office erected; upon which the Act, 3 Geo. II. c. 21, was passed, constituting the Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commons of Drogheda, keepers and conservators of its river

and port, with powers to make by-laws for the cleansing of the harbour, and security of the shipping, to erect a ballast office, raise ballast, impose duties, &c. All monies levied under the powers of this Act (salaries and necessary expenses being deducted), were to be applied to the improvement of the harbour; and the overplus, if any, to support a workhouse for promoting the linen manufacture. To this Act succeeded the provisions of the 33 Geo. II. c. 1, s. 14, and the 1 Geo. III. c. 1, s. 31. In 1759, £2000 was granted by Parliament, and a like sum in 1761, to the Corporation for promoting inland navigation, to be by them applied for deepening this harbour, from the pile work below the bridge to the bar of the river; by which aid a cut was formed through gravel and sand on the south side of the river, and the existing difficulty to a vessel, coming up to the town with a south or north wind, was thereby removed. In 1781, £1000 more was granted for similar purposes, and a like sum in 1783. Further enactments were passed with the object of facilitating the navigation of this river, by the 21 and 22 Geo. III. c. 1, s. 26, and the 23 and 24 Geo. III. c. 1, s. 31. In 1785, an Act was passed (25 Geo. III. c. 64) to amend the former Act of 3 Geo. II. c. 21, for cleansing this port, and erecting a ballast office; no ballast office has, however, been since erected. Other provisions are embodied in the Acts 27 Geo. III. c. 30, s. 25, 29 Geo. III. c. 33, s. 2, and 30 Geo. III. c. 40. In 1790, in consequence

of repeated petitions from the Corporation, merchants, and inhabitants of Drogheda, a Parliamentary grant of £600 *per annum*, for the twelve succeeding years, was given, and an Act passed (30 Geo. III. c. 39), whereby the Mayor and Recorder of Drogheda, the representatives in Parliament for Meath, Louth, and Drogheda, and six Aldermen, and seven members of the Common Council, were constituted Commissioners for improving and cleansing the river and harbour, and certain duties on the tonnage of vessels were thereby imposed, to be applied for such purposes. In 1797, the latter Act was amended by the 37 Geo. III. c. 56, and powers given for purchasing and improving the waste ground, before alluded to as since built upon, for quays and storehouses. The imperial legislature has further provided for the objects, powers, and available funds of those Commissioners, by the following local Acts, 43 Geo. III. c. lx. 48 Geo. III. c. cvi. 50 Geo. III. c. x. and 7 & 8 Geo. IV. c. xxxv. while the Act, 5 & 6 Vict. c. ci. transferred all property to a new set of Commissioners thereby appointed, and prescribed their qualifications, powers, and duties; and the Commissioners of Public Works have advanced £10,000 on mortgage of the tolls and securities by bonds, and have recommended a further loan of £5000, for continuing and completing the improvement of the harbour. By these several means the quay has been widened to an extent of about ten feet on the north side of the river, from the bridge to a point opposite

the custom-house; new quay walls have been constructed, and the river deepened four feet, so that vessels of 400 tons, by discharging part of their cargo below, can come up to the bridge; the port is, however, more adapted to vessels of about 200 tons, drawing from ten to twelve feet of water, while above the bridge the river is navigable for lighters of 70 tons. Three lighthouses have been recently erected on the sand hills at the entrance of the harbour. The exertions of the Corporation for yet further improvements are indefatigable. Some notion may be formed of the scouring power of this river, when it is considered that the Boyne takes its rise about fifty miles above Drogheda, and, draining a tract of 700 square statute miles, delivers about 3000 cube feet of water per second, in ordinary times, at the bridge. The river meets the tide about a mile and a half above Drogheda, and the tidal basin below extends over a space of 460 statute acres; it is 7000 yards in length from the bridge to the narrow between the sand hills called the Crooks, gradually widening from 160 feet at the bridge, to half a mile at Beltra, and then suddenly contracting to a breadth of 160 yards at high, and 90 yards at low water. This space contains at high water 3,600,000 cube yards, or $97\frac{1}{4}$ millions of feet, the tide in which basin, at ordinary times, flows 4 hours 20', and ebbs 8 hours 5'; but these proportions of course vary in freshes and draughts.

Commerce.—Being, as Drogheda is, the embou-

chure of all that the fertility of Meath and Louth can produce, and, situated nearly opposite Liverpool, it maintains the most extensive commerce, not only with England and Scotland, to which five steam packets, of about 350 tons each, are constantly plying from thence, but also with Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. About sixty years since, the shipping interest from this town gave employment to but a solitary vessel, the *Mary Anne*, whose loadings, insurances, departures, and returns, were at the time a source of reiterated excitement to the merchants, and are now traditionary themes of wonder and diversion among their descendants. Drogheda linens were then a principal export, and were entitled to a bounty under the revision of the Linen Board. The principal *Exports* are cattle, sheep, pigs, corn, flour, oatmeal, salt, eggs, butter, wool, cotton, &c. The cattle and sheep exported are from Meath and Louth, while the great supply of pigs arrives by the Kells' line. There is also a great carrying trade from this town westward, in timber, chiefly plank, iron, coal, salt, leather, glue, tobacco, soap, slates, Scotch cured fish, &c. The chief *Imports* are slates, coal, culm, rock salt, iron, bark, herrings, and dried fish, sugar, linen, yarn, tea, tobacco, wines, glass, with manufactured goods of all kinds; indeed all the merchandize sold or used in the town is imported, except a portion of the sugar, tea, whiskey, wine, tobacco, apparel, hardware, and some minor articles obtained from Dublin; the trade,

however, with the metropolis is, under existing circumstances, decreasing, and that with Liverpool extending; the Liverpool agents of the Drogheda Steam Company being required to act as brokers for all persons who get goods from England by the Company's vessels. The value of the exports, as estimated in 1835, was £766,027, that of the imports, £259,854. According to the returns, for the year ending in the January of that year (1835), there were shipped from this port 126,380 loads of meal, 42,500 bushels of wheat, 3000 barrels of peas, 37,000 sacks of flour, 2500 barrels of barley, 22,000 of oats, 13,000 crates of eggs, 600 firkins of butter, 4100 cows, 12,000 sheep, 39,000 pigs, and 500 barrels of ale. The number of vessels in the foreign trade, that entered inwards during that interval, was 14 British and three foreign, and 2 British vessels cleared outwards. In the trade with Great Britain and across the channel, 494 ships, including steam vessels, entered inwards, and 462 cleared outwards; and in the trade with various ports in Ireland, 42 entered inwards and 23 cleared outwards. The number of vessels, registered as belonging to this port, was stated some years since as forty, of an aggregate burden of 3763 tons; a later return to Parliament, in 1841, states the total tonnage of the vessels registered in Drogheda during that year, as 4850.

It but remains to mention in this section of the work, that Drogheda gives title of Marquess and Earl to the noble family of Moore.

ANCIENT STATISTICS.

INTERSPERSED amongst the edifices of the modern town, are many interesting monastic remains, and some yet surviving, though greatly decayed, fragments of the high massive

WALLS AND GATES,

that once defended this scene of ancient political and commercial renown. Of the walls, those portions which led from the West gate to the river, and from Lawrence's gate to the quay, the line that bounds Dominick-lane at west, and the sections at the south side of Scarlet-street and Patrick-street, are still to be seen on the Louth side of the river; while on the Meath, a considerable but interrupted line is traceable from the Butter Tower at foot of the Mill-mount, from Blackbut-lane to Priest's-lane, and enclosing the burial ground of St. Mary's parish at south and east; there is also a fragment standing between St. James's-street and the Boyne, and these several portions of ancient fortifications are still fortunately the respected boundaries of private property.

The gates, that guarded the approaches to the town at the north side, were, in the succession of the circuit, West-gate, composed of two towers and a portcullis between (adjoining which, on the town wall, was a turret, that, in 1668, was granted by the Corporation to Alderman Towers); Fair-gate, so called from its having been the direct entrance to that part of the town where fairs were commonly held; Sunday's, denominated from Sunday's friary, which it immediately abutted, and of which, traces still exist in its vicinity (this was likewise popularly called the Cow-gate, and was a square castle, having near it also two towers, the Tooting and Boulter's tower, while another, immediately over it, was, in 1664, demised by the Corporation to the Guild of Smiths for their hall, at a rent of five shillings, for sixty-one years); St. Lawrence's gate, and Catherine's, the latter having been erected on the edge of the river. Nearly upon the site of the first, the fine house of Mr. Carty, the present Mayor, has been erected; a fragment of Sunday's gate is the gable of a forge; Catherine's and Fair-gate are no longer identified, even through a name; but St. Lawrence's bears ample inferential testimony to the beauty and strength of its coeval fortifications. It presents two perfect round towers, of four stories, connected by a portcullis and a retaining wall to their summits, as in the annexed engraving. This structure, and the street that leads from it to the Tholsel, are by some supposed to derive their name from the nineteenth



J.E. Jones C.E.

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St. Lawrence Gate & Street, Dublin.

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Baron of Howth, who had possessions here, and is buried in the adjacent cemetery of the Cord; the priory of St. Lawrence has, however, with much more probability, communicated the designation, preceding, as it did, by many years, the origin of Lord Howth's title in this locality. At the Meath side, continuing the circuit, was the Dublin or St. James's gate, also called, from the monastery outside it, and communicating that designation to the street which yet bears the name. Next to this succeeded the Blind gate, and Duleek gate on the road to that ancient town; St. John's gate, the access to the fine old priory of St. John of Jerusalem, which stood on the grounds of Ball's grove; and lastly, the Butter or Buttress gate, an octagon tower, still standing, and perforated with a round arched passage, wider in the inner span than in the outer. All these gates existed to a period of about "sixty years since," and it is within the recollection of many, how solemnly they used to be closed at the ninth hour, and a watchman assigned to each, through whom ingress or egress might be obtained till midnight, when the keys of all were deposited in the central guard-house, and no further thoroughfare tolerated until morning. The progress, however, of civilization and the mail-coaches, overran such exclusive regulations; while it may be remarked, that with all these precautions against hostile attacks, Drogheda was, in truth, commanded by several immediately adjacent eminences, from which, the well directed requisition of scientific beleaguers could easily compel a capitulation.

It is said, and, it would appear, with much truth, that at an early period in the ninth century Turgesius, the Danish king, fortified this place, and made it his strong-hold, whence he frequently sallied, and laid waste the surrounding country; the eminence, called the Mill-mount, is supposed to have been the erection of his horde, although there are some who would refer its origin to the more remote period, when the Boyne divided the kingdoms of Heber and Heremon, as hereafter mentioned. In their judgment, it is identified with the great dun, that in bardic story is recorded to have stood near the historic plain of Magh-Breagh, and under a higher moated section of which the bard Amergin was interred. The mount must, undoubtedly, have been always considered the citadel of Drogheda, until the improved science of war suggested more commanding stations in the vicinity for the effective operations of artillery, and it may be well imagined, that, as was the custom of the Danish commanders in Ireland, Turgesius, during his occupation of this town, cast up some rude fortifications in the way of trenches, banks, and ditches, around it, and made quays for mooring ships along the river, though all traces of such works must have passed away on subsequent improvements. Soon after the English invasion, as shown hereafter, this locality was by them also selected as of border importance, and, while two castles here defended the marches, walls and mounds were thrown up, at first of more rude materials, but, subse-

quently, in 1234, a murage charter was granted for the town at both sides of the river, in aid, and for the safe keeping and defence of the same. It details fully the customs thereby sanctioned, and directs that they should be applied in walling of said town, under the inspection of two burgesses; that they are to enure but for three years, and then to be altogether abolished. A further subsidy and aid was conceded in 1279, for a stone enclosure; another in 1296; and a third in 1316, to the amount of three hundred marks, towards the repair of the wall and towers. In 1319, 1320, and 1322, royal mandates issued to the Lord Justice of Ireland, directing him to remit to the Mayor and burgesses of Drogheda at the Louth side, their fee farm rent of sixty marks *per annum*, for the term of the five ensuing years, in order the better to effectuate the extension of their fortifications; while, in two years afterwards, the same royal bounty granted to the burgesses of the town at the Meath side, an aid for repairing and strengthening their portion of the walls and towers against the Scots, and other the king's enemies, same to be charged upon the customs and farms of said town. In 1334, the authorities at each side of the Boyne had an allowance for five years towards pavage and murage; and other murage charters were granted in 1343, 1356, 1362, 1370, 1373, and 1374; nor were King Edward's grants for such purposes suffered to be diverted, as may well be inferred from the numerous writs during his reign, ordering his

Justiciary and officers to seize into his hands, the estates and castles which he had granted, and which were left unfortified, and to apply the profits thereof to strengthen and defend them, for the safety of his dominions. In 1380, the calamity of pestilence, and the superadded infliction of incessant warfare with the Scots and native septs, had so reduced the burgesses of Drogheda, that King Richard the Second then conferred upon them certain customs and duties for the repair of their walls and fortifications, and for the general improvement of the town. In 1385, another murage charter was granted to the Mayor and Commonalty of Drogheda on the Louth side; and others in subsequent years, as more particularly mentioned in the section on the Corporate History.

The walls of Drogheda extended in their circumference, including the breadth of the river, somewhat more than a mile and a half, and enclosed an area of about sixty-four acres of the old Irish measure, their general height being from twenty to twenty-two feet, and their thickness from four to six, diminishing towards the summit, so as to allow a space of about two feet, with embrasures, for the soldiery to act from. In latter times, probably after the invention of gunpowder, this space was augmented by an addition of three or four feet, supported by columns of stone, and elliptic arches, on and through which, a passage led round the town, with doorways through the gates, castles, and turrets. The banks of the river

were also fortified by walls and turrets projecting into the water, as appears by a painting of Drogheda in the hall of Beaulieu House, taken in the reign of Charles the Second. The oldest survey of Drogheda, that the writer of this history has seen, is that of which an engraving is given in the second volume of this work; it was taken by a person of the name of Newcomen, in the year 1657, and is preserved in the Tholsel. In it is distinctly marked the line of the walls, with Lawrence's gate, Sunday's gate, West-gate, and towers at sundry intervals. Another illustration of the present subject occurs in Vallancey's transcript of a map of the barony of Ferrard, which he found preserved in the library of the King of France, and which purported to be a copy of the Down Survey, taken after the devastation of the two sieges of 1641 and 1649. The town walls are, in a vignette hereon, represented in such a state of repair, as even then to exhibit seven gates and two small towers at north, and five at south; the sites of St. Peter's, and the Abbey, St. Mary's, and St. James's, are also correctly marked upon this document. At the time of the above sieges respectively, ramparts were thrown up outside the gates, in particular directions, the better to resist hostile approaches, and accordingly, in the succeeding years, in leases made by the Corporation, occur, as subjects of demise, "Black's Rampier," on the Meath side; "the Rampier without Duleek gate," in the same quarter; and various entries occur, in such of the Assembly books as yet exist, of disburse-

ments for the repairs of these walls and ramparts, especially in 1676. Taylor and Skinner's map of 1778, also preserved in the Tholsel, is extremely interesting on this branch of the subject; upon it appear then existing, Fair gate and West gate, each at the termination of the respective streets from which they derive their names: Dublin gate, at the end of James's-street, where the stream, that runs through the Dale, falls perpendicularly into the Boyne. This map also otherwise suggests curious observations on the state of the town at that period. Fair-street appears only built upon at the south side, the north being chiefly laid out in gardens; Dyer-street closes in the market-place, and the quay extends no farther, but gardens run from the south side of West-street, beyond Stockwell-lane, to the water's edge. A fine limestone quarry appears open at St. James's, beyond which is marked Cromwell's mount; St. Mary's church west of this, and near it the barracks on Mill-mount. It only remains to add, that, in consequence of the unjustifiable dilapidations, that were directed against the surviving traces of Drogheda's once massive fortifications, the Assembly, in 1808, passed a resolution intended for their preservation, and which is embodied in the section on the Corporate History.

CASTLES, FORTS, ETC.

The castles of Ireland may be considered of two classes, the most ancient erected by the Palatines or

Deputies, at the assailable points of the English possessions, for their defence, and which, having been retained in the royal hands, and held by Constables appointed by the Crown, were peculiarly called the King's Castles. Of these were the Castles of Drogheda, Dublin, Trim, Carlingford, Carrickfergus, Athlone, Limerick, &c.; other castles for the protection of person and property, were individually erected, and tenanted as the settlement extended. The former were long used for the custody of those who were considered criminals or enemies, and their range was extended as the country was taken in from the Irishry. In a document of the time of Elizabeth, preserved in the British Museum (Titus, B. 12), showing how Ireland was reduced, and by what means retained under the English government, it appears that the chief policy recommended was, "to restrain and take from the Irishry, by little and little, all trust of government, to build castles and fenced houses, and to commit the captaincies to trusty and well affected English." On this principle, immediately after the invasion, two castles were erected here, the Castle of Drogheda, properly so styled, and the Castle of Blackagh or Ulnagh, as it is otherwise called in some ancient documents, both situated at the Meath side of the Boyne. It may be reasonably presumed, that these were erected by Hugh de Lacy, the first Palatine of Meath, and who, by such erection of castles along the marches, best secured the settlement of English rule within the

district called the Pale. Having, however, married a daughter of Roderic O'Connor, once the acknowledged King of Ireland, and even then recognized by Henry the Second as King of Connaught, he incurred the royal jealousy, and was recalled in 1180, but soon afterwards restored. In a grant, however, of 1189, whereby Walter, the son of this Hugh de Lacy, received back from the Crown various tracts of the surrounding country, which his father theretofore possessed, the Castle of Drogheda, and all the land which De Lacy had in Drogheda, were especially excepted; and the castle, as a royal and important fortress, was ordered to be committed to the custody of Richard de Tuyt; a direction which, not being promptly attended to by the Justiciary, the king sent him a mandatory letter, expressive of his surprise at the delay, requiring its immediate execution, with an additional requisition, to the Archbishop of Dublin and the Barons of Ireland, to assist in its performance. [This Richard de Tuyt, the first castellan of Drogheda, had accompanied the Earl of Chepstow, surnamed Strongbow, into Ireland, and obtained by the influence of that leader, and by his own valour, considerable possessions in Teffia, in the west of Meath; this endowment is noticed in the French Metrical poem, popularly attributed to Regan (the Secretary of Dermot Mac Murrough), in the words,

“ A Richard Tuite ensement,
Donad rich feffement.”

When Meath, the mensal demesne of the Irish kings, was erected into a Palatinate, this Richard became a Palatine peer, by the style of Baron of Moyashell, a title which he transmitted to his posterity. He was killed in 1211, by the fall of a tower in Athlone, and buried in the Abbey near Granard, which himself had previously founded, and where he had also raised a frontier castle. Richard, his son, thereupon inherited the manors of Kilalton, Demar, and Kilster, as did his brother Maurice the lands of Lochlock, Sonnagh, Imper, Jordanstown, &c. To this Richard the custody of the Castle of Clonmacnois was committed in 1224, and in 1232 he marched, under the command of William de Lacy, into Upper Breffny, against the O'Reillys, by whose sept the invaders were defeated with much loss, Richard de Tuýt, and Simon de Lacy, being amongst the wounded. In 1244, he had military summons to a royal expedition against the Scots. His issue male became extinct in the second generation, but Maurice, his brother, dying in 1282, left John his eldest son, who had military summons as one of the "Fideles" of Ireland in 1302, and was required by royal mandate, in 1309, to attend the muster at Newcastle-upon-Are, but he dying previous thereto, Sir Richard, his eldest son, succeeded to Sonnagh, &c. In 1310, he sat in Parliament as a Palatine knight; he also had military summonses against the Scots, as one of the "Nobiles" of Ireland, and in 1311, was required to attend the Parliament of Kilkenny. In 1314, he

*

was one of those who embarked from this port on the expedition to Scotland in aid of Edward the Second; in 1317, he was requested to continue his exertions for the defence of Ireland; in 1318, was one of the warriors who fought at the hardly contested field of Faughart, as hereafter mentioned; in 1323, he was commanded to resist and pursue Roger de Mortimer, in the event of his taking refuge in that country; in the following year was summoned to the defence of the dutchy of Aquitaine, and in 1325, sat as a peer in Parliament. He had acquired the manor of Killeen, and other possessions, which passed, with the heiress of his first marriage, to Sir Christopher Plunkett, the ancestor of the noble families of Fingal and Dunsany. Sir Richard's second wife was a daughter of the house of Ormond, and by her he had John his eldest son, and other children. This John de Tuyt was commanded to attend a hosting for the defence of the marches, in 1327; in 1333, he sat in a Parliament at Dublin, and in 1335, was knighted. His eldest son and heir, Richard, acquired not only the inheritance of his father, but also the manors which had been settled on the eldest son of the first Richard, whose male line had failed about this time. An inquisition, taken on his decease, enumerates his possessions as comprising the manors of Clonduff, Killeen, Spen, Fynagh, Williamstown, Castlecorr, Killallon, and Trim, with the townlands of Castletown, Robertstown, Corbally, Tybritt, Hamondstown, Hughstown, be-

sides thirty-three other extensive townlands. His brother, Thomas de Tuyt, was his heir male, who was accordingly summoned as a knight, to various Parliaments and Great Councils; he died about 1382, leaving John, his heir, and other sons, all under age at the time of their father's decease. This John had letters of protection and restoration of his estates, according to the law of wardship, in 1389, and in 1395 was knighted; his heir was Thomas, in whose time Andrew Tuyt was one of the great men of the Pale, who signed the memorable memorial in favour of Lord Furnival. Thomas's son and heir was John Tuyt of Sonnagh, whose heir was another Thomas, who, dying in 1516, left John his heir, who died about 1542, leaving Thomas of Sonnagh, &c. This last individual was summoned in 1556, to appear with his men and horses, at a general hosting against an expected invasion of Ulster by the Scots, and in ten years afterwards had a similar mandate to join the Lord Deputy's expedition against Shane O'Neill; he died in 1577, leaving John de Tuyt his heir at law, who died in 1597, leaving Oliver his heir at law, who was created a baronet by King James in 1622, and whose successive lineal heirs male have since enjoyed the title. They, and the other descendants of Sir Oliver, distinguished themselves by their attachment to the Stuart family, and suffered severely for their allegiance. In the confiscations of 1641 alone, they lost most extensive tracts in the counties of Longford, Meath, and West-

meath, which were distributed to Lord Wharton, Robert Cooke, and many other patentees. In the Act of Settlement, three members of this family were expressly mentioned, as having faithfully served the king's cause in parts beyond seas, Captain Jasper Tuite, Lieutenant Harvey Tuite, and Ensign William Tuite. From the time of the first settlement of this family in Meath, to the period last alluded to, no less than forty castles are accounted as of their foundation. In the subsequent Parliaments of Ireland, the Tuites have represented various localities. In the "History of Westmeath," written by Sir Henry Piers, in 1682, he speaks of the Tuites as Barons of Moy-ashell, adding, that "they still remain of good repute and port, although the title be almost obsolete." In 1691, Captain Tuite was one of the prisoners taken at Limerick, and who, after the capitulation, was confined in the "Wheat Sheaf" until exchanged. Sir Mark Anthony Henry is the present baronet, but the inheritance of the ancient estate of Sonnagh vested by family settlement in his cousin Hugh Tuite, whose eldest son, Hugh Morgan Tuite, Esq., is one of the present representatives of the county Westmeath in Parliament, and who, on the recent decease of his father, became seised of the family estates].

The royal exception of the Castle of Drogheda, so contained in the grant of 1189, was continued in a similar patent of 1215, to the aforesaid Walter de Lacy, on his payment of a fine of 4000 marks; but

in the subsequent year, that fortress was also entrusted to his keeping. The De Lacy and De Verdon families used, at this time, to receive an annuity of twenty-five marks each, out of the town and from the Castle of Blackagh. In 1217, the custody of the Castle of Drogheda was committed to the Archbishop of Armagh, but, in the following year, this Prelate besought the Crown to relieve him from the responsibility; and, although his request was refused, a royal mandate issued, that he should not be suffered to sustain any loss or damage by its retention. He was, however, soon afterwards released altogether from this charge, and Thomas Stanley, Thomas de Mymys, and John Yore, are noticed on record, as successive constables before 1300. In 1308, Geoffrey de Geneville received the sum of £597 1s. 4d., the amount of arrears due to him, for several years' custody of the Castles of Blackagh and Drogheda and of the town of Drogheda on the Meath side. [The grandfather and namesake of this Geoffrey de Geneville, was brother of the famous Jean de Joinville, the companion and historian of St. Louis. That Geoffrey intermarried with one of the two great grand-daughters of Hugh de Lacy, the first Palatine of Meath, while her sister Margery of Lough Suidy, became the wife of John de Verdon, who thereupon possessed her moiety, together with the office and dignity of Constable of Ireland; the manor of Trim, the "*caput baroniæ*," being allotted in De Geneville's share. The Geoffrey here mentioned as the Castel-

lan, was the confidential friend of Edward the First, and engaged by him in almost all the great transactions of the time, both at home and abroad. Having embarked, according to the fashionable chivalry of the day, in a crusade to the Holy Land, he was, on his return, sent into Ireland as Lord Justice, where he soon afterwards founded the Dominican friary of Trim. In 1308, however, he resigned the lordship of Meath to his grand-daughter and her ambitious husband Roger de Mortimer, retired into the establishment so founded by him, and there, in the habit of the Order, closed his days in 1314]. The immediate successors of De Geneville, in the trust of this important fortress, were, as far as ascertained :

1317. Edward de Barnewall.

1324. Lawrence Calf.

1326. Richard de Preston.

[This Richard, during his life, chiefly resided at Beaubeck, where he appears to have died, about the year 1384, leaving his son Thomas heir to his estates in Meath and Louth].

1333. Walter de Bykenor.

[He had, in 1356, the further confidential charge of superintending the creeks, harbours, and shore, from Holmpatrick to Dublin, to prevent the exportation of grain or fish thence.]

1336. Alan Corc,

1354. Thomas Raggett.

1344. Gerald de St. Michael.

1357. John de Woodstock.

1346. Maurice de Stokes.

The salary for this charge was, at that time, 100*s. per annum*, with an allowance for arms and provisions.

In 1358, in consequence of many prisoners having escaped from this castle of Drogheda, timber and iron were ordered to be supplied for its repairs; and in 1380, Edmund de Mortimer, Earl of March, received a sum of £358 5*s.* 5*d.* arrears of a yearly rent of twenty-five marks, which his father Roger and he had been entitled to receive from the Kings of England for the site of the Castle of Blackagh, in Drogheda, on the Meath side. [The Roger de Mortimer, here alluded to, had been the infamous paramour of Queen Isabella; he was lineally descended from Ralph de Mortimer, who having been allied in the maternal line to the Conqueror, accompanied him into England, and was one of the principal commanders in his victorious army. He was afterwards deputed to encounter Edric, Earl of Shrewsbury, whom he subdued, and delivered captive to the king, whereupon he acquired possession of Wigmore Castle and the other lands of that chieftain. Roger had, as before mentioned, intermarried with the granddaughter of Geoffrey de Geneville, by whom he had a son and heir, Edmund de Mortimer, who in 1363 married Philippa, daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence (third son of King Edward the Third) by the heiress of De Burgo, Earl of Ulster. Through this connexion he acquired additional rights in that province. About the year 1379, he was appointed Viceroy of Ireland, with

the avowed object of conferring upon that office greater dignity; and in 1381 he died in the Dominican friary of Cork, leaving Roger the younger, his son and heir. Anne of Stafford, the daughter and heiress of this Roger, married Richard Duke of Cambridge, and by him had Richard Duke of York, in whose son and heir, Edward the Fourth, all these possessions merged, and became thenceforth annexed to the Crown. It is curious that this family surname should have continued in the vicinity to the time of James the Second, in whose charter to Drogheda, "Richard Mortimer" was named as one of the burgesses.] In Newcomen's map before mentioned, the castle of Drogheda is distinctly marked as near the bridge, at the south side of the town, and it appears to have been the fortress designed in the corporate seal; not a trace, however, even of the foundations of this, or of the castle of Blackagh, now remains to suggest their precise site; and during the lapse of centuries, nothing worthy of historical notice is recorded in connexion with either. One of them, however, it may be noticed, the Corporation leased in 1669, to John Ley; and, in 1697, for sixty-one years (renewed in 1707), to one of their own body, Alderman Tomlinson; again in 1755, to James Sandiford, merchant, for a like term; and lastly, in 1814, to his descendant, the Rev. James Sandiford, of Cloyne, for ninety-nine years: by the description throughout of "an old stone house lying on the Meath side of the town, at foot of the

hill, and commonly called the Old Tholsel, or Castle of Comfort, meaning to the way leading to the Bull-ring, up the hill to Duleek-gate on the west, St. Nicholas's church on the east, and the street called the Bull-ring on the north." Castle-street, opposite the bridge, derived its name from this edifice. Another fortress (which appears to have stood near the Coolies on the Meath side), called "Laundy's Castle, with a meadow near the standard acre," were leased by the Corporation in 1660, to Nicholas Phepoe. Possibly this latter might be the same with Blackagh, taking its later name of Laundy's from some intermediate proprietor.

Around the town divers remains of earthworks likewise existed, one called Mortimer's moat lay south-east of St. Lawrence's gate; another, north of the walls, was called the Town Rath, and is leased by that description to the present day; while traces of more modern military works are discernible at several of the stations, which were occupied by Cromwell during the short but terrific interval of his siege.

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE, ETC.

The ancient domestic architecture of Drogheda, like that of other towns, consisted, from the period of the English invasion to the middle of the sixteenth century, of wooden houses, wainscotted within, and covered on the outside with lath and plaister, of which style some interesting specimens yet re-

main here; one a large house, with extensive bay, or rather oriel windows, adjoining Kirke's hotel, formerly belonged to the Dromgooles, and is still inhabited by a connexion of that family; the doors, ceilings, beams, staircase, and balusters are of fine old oak, carved; and the walls are over-panneled and wainscotted with the same material, and hung with curious oak-framed paintings. The drawing-room floor consists of one large room, and a smaller opening into it by a narrow folding door, through a screen of oak; bay windows project from each into the street: the chimney-pieces are very antique; over that in the large room is a drawing of Mellefont Abbey, from whose once extensive woods the timber of this edifice was taken; and in the small is suspended a large wooden-framed oblong mirror: a glass chandelier, a marble slabbed table, and several portraits of the former proprietors, are amongst the heirlooms that still attach to the freehold. In this drawing-room, according to popular tradition, Cromwell held a council of war; and here, it is with more confidence asserted, Henry Dowdal, Recorder of Drogheda, delivered the memorable address to King James the Second, in April, 1689. The garden attached to this house, when in the possession of the Dromgooles of that period, extended almost to Patrick's-well-lane.—Not far from this, and in the same street, at the corner of Patrick's-well-lane, is another old edifice, which an inscription on a small mural slab indicates to have

been erected in 1583 by Nicholas Elcock; but its present appearance does not seem to verify so remote an origin. Tradition however states, that here, during the siege by Cromwell, the unfortunate Governor, Sir Arthur Aston, resided; and that King James was entertained, and slept here, on the night before the battle of the Boyne.—About midway on the ascent of Peter-street, at the right hand side, is another ancient dwelling, originally constructed of wooden beams in the bird-cage fashion, but now plastered over. It consisted of two stories, the upper projecting over the lower, and the oaken door-frame had an inscription, referring the date of its erection to 1626, at which time the houses of Drogheda appear to have been all of this character. At the north side of West-street, is a similar specimen of this style; and a curious edifice of a later age, with the double pointed roof, appears in Dyer-street, near the Distillery.—But the finest survivor of this class was, under apprehension of danger, taken down about fifteen years since by order of the Corporation. It occupied the angle formed by the junction of Lawrence-street and Shop-street, the principal front being in the latter, and was composed chiefly of oak, also from Mellefont Park. It exhibited three stories, each successively projecting beyond that below; the attic was composed of a strong square oak frame, with oak quadrants and semicircles within it, the interstices being filled with plaister; the drawing-room floor was of a more finished character, consisting of panneling or wains-

cot, each pannel being about a foot square, and fancifully carved with quatrefoils, and foliage executed in good style. On this floor, at the Lawrence-street side, was a handsome semicircular oriel window, consisting of four divisions; a pannel, the pedestal of which contained the arms of the ancient family of De Bathe; and on the bressimer was an inscription, stating the building to have been "made by Nicholas Bathe, in the year of our Lord God 1570, by Hugh Moor, carpenter;" these words were carved in antique raised letters of great size, and each word divided by a star; the original appearance of the ground-floor is not remembered, so many alterations had it undergone; but Mr. Austin Nicholls, of Drogheda, has preserved sketches of the two fronts of this interesting edifice, and the bressimer is lodged in the Dublin Society. To the same architect, Hugh Moor, is attributed the construction of that noble pile, Athcarne Castle, which was built for another member of the De Bathe family, about twenty years after the alleged date of this.—It may be added, that near St. Lawrence-street was the immemorial residence of the Primate, and there Doctor Hampton erected that splendid mansion, which his successors for many years inhabited; it, however, has also been taken down, and, while the later Protestant Primates have removed their residence to Armagh, the name of Palace-street now alone indicates where their predecessors abode.

In a broad dry foss, outside the town wall, be-

tween Taylor's Hall and Tooting (i. e. shooting) Tower, the butts were, according to Statute, erected for the practice of archery; a science which, in relation to its progress in Ireland, deserves a few remarks. In the most remote periods of Irish history, the use of the bow is abundantly testified; and the old annalists number archery with the exercises of the militia which Fin Mac Cool commanded on the plains of Dundalk. The native bow was not, however, of the formidable cross-bow class first invented by the Hindoos, carried into Europe by the Crusaders, and by which the battles of Agincourt and Cressy were principally obtained. "The Irish short bow and little quivers, with short bearded arrows, are," remarks Spencer, "very Scythian." Hence it was, that the little detachments, that were led into this country by Strongbow and the other early adventurers, were enabled to effect with the cross-bow such havoc and terror amongst the inexperienced natives; and hence did the feats of archery, performed by Robin Hood and his followers, who fled to Ireland in the reign of Richard the First, excite such astonishment in the eyes of the citizens of Dublin. The English, however, had not been long settled here, when they enjoined the practice of archery on all the inhabitants of the Pale between sixteen and sixty years of age: this was ordained by Act of Parliament (5 Edw. IV. c. 4); and in the same session, another Act was passed, directing that butts should be set up in every town, whereat the

archers should shoot on every holiday, under the penalty of one halfpenny per day for omission, "not however prohibiting gentlemen on horseback, according to their best disposition, to ride with spear, so that they have bows with their men for time of necessity." In the twelfth year of the same reign, in order to secure the supply of bows, it was enacted (12 Edw. IV. c. 2), that every merchant and passenger, that brought merchandise out of England into Ireland to the value of £100, should bring with him into said land, in bows to the value of 100s., and so rateably; and the Sheriffs and Bailiffs of Dublin and Drogheda were appointed searchers to effectuate the intentions of the Act. In a few years afterwards it was further ordained by 10 Hen. VII. c. 9, that the subjects of this realm shall have bows and arrows for the resistance of the malice of their enemies and rebels, like as they have had in times passed; afterwards, however, the use of fire-arms superseded that of archery, until at length it sunk into oblivion.

In the ancient town on the west side of St. Peter-street (which was, until a recent period, more commonly called Pillory-street), the high cross was erected near where the town pump now stands. In the time of the Commonwealth it had been taken down, but one of the first resolutions of the Corporations of King James the Second was, "that a decent and substantial market cross should be erected and built, on the ancient ground where a cross for-

merly stood." On the Meath side, adjoining to and south of St. John-street, was the bull-ring, and at both sides of the river were commons, that, on being recently enclosed, produce for purposes of charity, a rental of about £411 *per annum*.

It should not be omitted, that, in and about Drogheda, several subterranean passages have been discovered, and many of considerable extent; one reaching from St. Peter's Church towards the Tholsel, another in the line of West-street, a third near the ruins of the Dominican monastery, and a fourth near the burial ground, popularly called the Cord. It is also to be remarked, that, below the bridge, considerable traces of an ancient weir have been discovered in dredging the Boyne, and large quantities of stone and gravel raised thereout. Mr. Brodigan of Pilton House, a gentleman whose exertions have been unceasing for the improvement of this, his native town, and at whose suggestion the work here alluded to was, with the object of improving the harbour, undertaken, has procured from Mr. John Young, the resident engineer, the following interesting particulars of its progress: "This part of the bed of the river was formerly supposed to be rock, but, so far as we have gone, the steam dredge has found nothing but large loose stones and shingle, which necessarily strained the machinery of the dredge more than sand or gravel, or other matter constituting the bed at other parts of the river; but with the exception of breaking a few links, and the

flue of the patent anchor, the dredge sustained no other injury. The steam dredge was employed at the supposed rock, but truly weir, from the 8th of January, 1835, to the 26th of February, during which time it raised 7875 tons of stone and shingle from the bed of the river, thereby increasing the depth of water four feet, and gaining the length of three berths along the north quay wall, equal to 80 yards, and one-half the width of the harbour. These berths are used by large vessels, where they can lie with as much safety as in any part of the harbour. The berth next the bridge was not completed at that time, and the work has not been resumed there since. The stuff raised was laid to the east side of Mr. Cairnes's works, and where the new flax mill is built; a part of it was taken to the waste ground east of the steam packet yard. The following articles were found by the workmen, when employed deepening the river, immediately below the bridge: three guineas, which passed at full value; eight watches, the works of which were, as might be supposed, utterly destroyed, the cases were sold for old silver; a great number of copper coins of different descriptions; several antique pikes or halberts, one of bronze, ten inches in length by one one-tenth in breadth; when found there was a screw in the bottom part which went into a socket, and thereby fastened it to the handle, it is otherwise in excellent preservation. There were also found one bayonet; one barrel of a gun; one spy-glass; some ship-carpen-

ters' tools, axes, caulking irons, &c.; a quantity of old marlin-spikes; several old knives, &c.; all much decayed, with the exception of the guineas. There were a great number of cut stone quoins raised, with the mark of the tool upon them: the greater number of these were found not far from the middle of the river."

ABBEYS, FRIARIES, ETC.

Of the monastic remains in Drogheda, that which has the first claim to notice, from the remoteness of its origin, is pre-eminently called,

The Abbey, situated between West-st. and the river Boyne. Its origin is traditionally referred to the period of St. Patrick, who, after founding the Abbey of Louth, sojourned here in his progress southwards; and, having baptized many of the then Pagan inhabitants of Drogheda, in the well that still bears his name, he established a family of monks in this locality, placing, as usual, an abbot over them, of whose successors some few notices are discoverable in the ancient annals; first premising, that about the middle of the sixth century, St. Columba, the greatest patriarch of the monastic order in Ireland, and the Apostle of the Picts, is recorded by his biographer, Adamnan, to have sojourned here. In 738, according to the Annals of Ulster, died Cuan, the Scribe of this fraternity, a personage whose office was of no small importance for these and succeeding generations, and in 747, St. Killian, who had been of this

house, and was through life pre-eminently styled "of Drogheda" (a speaking testimony to the antiquity of the name), having theretofore become a Columban monk in the sacred island of Iona, died in honoured sanctity its Abbot. In 773, according to the same Annals, died Albraid Mac Foidmit, Abbot of this monastery, as did its superior Domteach in 788, and its abbot, Cormac Mac Connell, in 838. In 849, this house was consumed by the hostility of the Danes, at which time an oratory or penitentiary seemed to be annexed to it, which, as the Annals of the Four Masters relate, was utterly consumed on this occasion, with 260 persons then seeking shelter therein; while in 917, the same sacrilegious tyrants plundered this edifice, and murdered the Abbot Indrech Indracta. It is to be remarked, that in the above notices, Drogheda is called Treoit, each name derived from the Irish term for a bridge, and thus suggesting the high antiquity of a bridge here, as at least of popular belief, when those Annals were compiled. In 1152, according to many authorities, Cardinal Paparo held in this house a session of the celebrated Synod, in which, as the Legate of Pope Eugene the Third, he distributed the four Archbishopal palls to Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam. In the first then sat Gelasius, in the second Gregory, in the third Donatus, and in the last Edanus; and these were the first Archbishops of Ireland, and to whom suffragan Bishops were duly assigned. The Cardinal also, on this occasion, transacted other mat-

ters of great importance, passing decrees for the due payment of tithes, and against simony and usury, &c., as fully detailed in the "Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin," by the author of this work. Others allege that this memorable council was held at Mellefont.

Some time previous to the year 1170, Amlave, then Abbot of this monastery, was expelled from its government for sacrilegious crimes attributed to him, immediately after which, he instigated some of the chieftains and leaders of the country to attack the monastery of Saul, which Malachy O'Morgair, the Pope's Legate, had built and liberally adorned. The religious fraternity thus assailed, were driven from their holy home, and their books, vestments, cattle, with all else they had collected from the time of that legate, were despoiled, an atrocity which the Four Masters, in their Annals, deeply lament. In 1193, the aforesaid Dervorgilla, according to popular tradition, died a penitent in this abbey, at the advanced age of 85. Soon afterwards, the establishment, possibly suffering by the public opinion in reference to its late principal, fell into decay. The piety of the times did not, however, suffer the site to lie consecrated, and in 1206, Ursus de Swemele, with the consent of his wife Christiana, granted, in frankalmoigne, all his Irish possessions to found an hospital here, for the support of sick and infirm and the dispensation of hospitality and charity; to secure the continuance and superintendence of which inten-

tions, a monastery was attached. Those possessions consisted of the lands on which the hospital was erected, forty acres outside the western gate, and the lands of Killineer, the hospital paying thereout yearly to the king, half an ounce of gold in lieu of all rent and services; he also gave that parcel of land in the mountains, which he held from the king, at the yearly rent of ten shillings for all services, and certain parcels which he had purchased from the burgesses in the Liberty of Drogheda, certain yearly rents out of borough lands and holdings, and also, one issuing from the corner in Drogheda, which Adam the skinner held, at the east side of the chapel of St. Nicholas and beyond the bridge, amounting to two shillings yearly; another, out of Roger the miller's holding, at the south of St. Nicholas's chapel, three shillings yearly, &c. He farther gave, after his decease, the superintendence of this hospital to the good men of Drogheda, providing that the superior should be styled, not Prior, but Keeper or Warden, and should be at all times removeable for misbehaviour. The witnesses of this grant were Eugene, Archbishop of Armagh; Luke, Archdeacon of Armagh; Robert, Chaplain of St. Peter's Church, &c.(a).

At the close of the thirteenth century this hospital was occupied by crouched friars, or cross-bearers, of the order of St. Augustine, whence it is

(a) Rot. Pat. 32 Edw. III. in Tur. Lond.

sometimes called the Augustinian friary; and in 1300, its privileges as a sanctuary were extended to Hamund, a murderer, who, flying thither by night, there did penance and abjured the land, as did also Martin of Termonfeckin, under the remorse of a similar crime. In 1300 the Prior was sued for appropriating, to the use of his convent, a burgage in this town, without having obtained the usual license of mortmain; he was, however, discharged on producing the king's writ, directing the restoration of the burgage to him. In 1330, an overflow of the Boyne did considerable damage to this monastery, which stood especially exposed to such a visitation. The building was, however, restored, chiefly by the munificence of the Brandon family. A plea roll of 13 Edw. III. in Bermingham Tower, affords an exemplification of the various grants made to this house by the Kings of England; it purports to bear date in 1340. In 1349, the prior had a royal grant of privileges, and in 1359, a general chapter of the order was held here; at which latter year the charter of de Swemele, before mentioned, was inspected, and is preserved, as on that *Inspeximus*, in the Tower of London. About the same time the Prior had license to acquire lands, tenements, and chief rents, to the value of ten pounds per annum, and which were held by free burgage, either of the king or of other lords(*a*). John Aumell was Prior of this house in

(*a*) Rot. Pat. 18 Ric. II. in Canc. Hib.

1377; and in 1395 the Prior and his fraternity had license to accept a grant in mortmain of four acres of land in St. Peter's parish, one messuage in the great street of Drogheda, and two shops in Bothe-street, with the upper structures built thereupon, being of the value of thirty-seven shillings and eight pence, as found on inquisition taken by William le Scrope, theretofore Escheator of Ulster and Drogheda, and who appears on record as then Constable of the Castle of Dublin.

The Observantine friars reformed this monastery in 1519, but, on the dissolution, Richard Molane, its last Prior, having surrendered it into the king's hands, was, by inquisition taken in 1543 (Friday next after the feast of the Epiphany), found seised of the said priory, and of six acres of arable land in the town of Glaspistol, of the annual value of 13s. 4d., besides reprises; thirty acres of arable land, with the tithes in the townland of Carlingford, of like annual value of 13s. 4d.; two messuages in the town of Dundalk, value six shillings; two acres arable, in Stabannon, value two shillings; and thirty acres of land, and a chief rent in Priorton. The rectory of Inismott was also proved to have been appropriate to the said Prior and his successors, being of the like annual value of sixty shillings and eight pence(a). Another inquisition concerning its possessions was taken in this year at Ardee. About the same time

(a) Inq. 34 Hen. VIII. in Offic. Ch. Rememb.

the lands of Killineer, part of the possessions of this dissolved hospital, were demised by the Crown for twenty-one years to Nicholas Dowan, of London, merchant; after the expiration of which they reverted to the Corporation of Drogheda, who, in 1557, got a grant thereof, as of the other possessions of this house, and appear by a record in the Vice Treasurer's Office, to have compounded for the arrears of proxies due thereout in and up to 1608. Through this body, accordingly, have they since been held by various persons, under successive derivative leases. In 1668 especially, that body granted, "the old abbey walls of St. Mary de Urso, together with the ground where the old castle stood, with their appurtenances, without the West Gate," for 61 years, to Edward Singleton, which lease was subsequently renewed. The transmission of other parcels of the possessions of this house is traceable on registry, from the Dobson family to Alderman William Norman and his descendants; while in 1734, Richard Jebb had a lease of part of the estate of the therein styled Augustinian friary, fronting Patrick's-well-lane, together with the fish-boards or custom of the fish-market, for 61 years, at the annual rent of £3 9s. 6d. [This Richard Jebb had settled here as a merchant, and was the grandfather of the late Dr. John Jebb, Bishop of Limerick, and of the late Mr. Justice Jebb, one of the puisne judges of the

(a) Inq. 34 Hen. VIII., in Offic. Ch. Rememb.

Queen's Bench]. A similar lease of the same premises, so before demised to Jebb, was granted in 1764, to Alderman Edward Chesshire, for a like term of 61 years thenceforth, at £3 10s. rent, which was renewed to his descendant Alderman William Chesshire, in 1810, for 99 years, at the annual rent of £15. The rectory of Inismott was, as before mentioned, for a long time held by the Corporation, for the use of the Poor-house of St. John's. The nave of this once extensive building, in its full extent eastward and westward from the central tower, extended one hundred and fifty feet by twenty-five, and is now a thoroughfare called the Abbey-lane, being spanned by the fine arch of its central tower. A small gothic arch to the west forms part of the gable of a stable, while a side window of a transept, and some few fragments of walls in the adjoining yards and enclosures, otherwise define the site of the ancient edifice.

The Priory of St. Lawrence stood outside the before-mentioned gate of that name, and was built by the Mayor and burgesses of the town at the Louth side, before the union of the two Corporations. To it was attached the extensive burial ground called the Cord, finely situated over the Boyne, well enclosed, subdivided with walks, and planted (but certainly not tastefully) with evergreens. Nothing of historic or popular interest has been discovered in relation to this establishment. In 1310, its Prior

had royal letters of protection(*a*); and in 1441, John Davis, then its principal, granted a corody, comprising bed and clothing in said house, to John Clonmagan, for the term of his natural life. Dowling, in his *Annals*, refers to the year 1493 the trial of an ecclesiastical cause, somewhat connected with this house, that illustrates the firmness and publicity, with which Octavian de Palatio, then Archbishop of Armagh, asserted his rights of paramount primacy. A case had been then pending between the Bishop of Leighlin and his own Dean and Chapter; the latter appealed to the Metropolitan jurisdiction of Dublin, but, not obtaining relief there, advanced their appeal to the Court of Armagh, when Octavian cited their opponents to appear before himself at the House and Chancel of St. Lawrence, near Drogheda, within the octave of St. Patrick; but the further course of the proceedings does not appear. On the dissolution, in 1547, Stephen Roche, the last Prior of this house, was found seised of the site, comprising a stone church covered with tiles, a hall, two chambers covered with tiles, a kitchen and two stables thatched, a cow-house, barn, and kiln, two parks of half an acre each, planted with ash trees; an orchard of half an acre and a stang; twenty acres of pasture; one and a half of meadow near Philipstown; twelve of pasture and of meadow near Woddslands; half an acre of pasture in Talbot's park, with another

(*a*) Rot. Pat. 3 & 4 Edw. II., in Canc. Hib.

acre adjoining ; twenty acres of pasture on the west side of the highway leading to the commons ; fourteen acres of land called Hookeland, adjacent to Bathe's land ; half an acre of pasture in our Lady's land, on the east side of the highway ; two acres of meadow in Clonerallhe ; a park of brushwood with an acre of pasture, on the north of the lord of Howth, two acres of pasture south of said lord ; fifteen acres of pasture, called Trym's field ; two acres of pasture east of said lord ; a water-mill ; five acres east of our Lady's land ; four acres, called the Mort park, lying on both sides of the land of Thomas St. Lawrence ; an acre north of the Mort park ; the horse-mill park, four acres ; an acre of pasture called the commons ; Seeroge's park, an acre and a half ; two acres on St. James's hill ; half an acre of ash ; a messuage in St. Sunday's-street ; a messuage near the pillory ; another in Fish-street ; a third in Dyer-street ; a common of two acres of pasture and bushes near Plunkett's land, and three acres and a half in said common near the Newtown ; all which possessions were, on the dissolution, likewise granted to the Corporation of Drogheda, who, amongst other demises thereof, granted " St. Lawrence's Mill," in 1669, to Alderman Thomas Dixon for sixty-one years, at the annual rent of thirty shillings ; and in 1700, Alderman William Elwood obtained from them a more distinct conveyance of " St. Lawrence's Hospital, lying outside St. Lawrence's gate, with the haggard, garden, orchard, church, and churchyard," at the yearly rent

of £3 16s. 1d. The latter premises were, in 1760, demised to John Graham, junior.

In the centre of its aforesaid burial ground (which has been recently extended by a grant from the Corporation, of a portion of the Culver-house park, formerly belonging to the Dominican priory), is the gable of a small chapel, near which the Dominican friars of Drogheda are latterly interred. Immediately adjacent is a tombstone to Richard the nineteenth Baron of Howth, who died in 1558, and several family monuments of the Chesters, Gernons, Archbolds(*a*), and Colemans, appear in this angle. There is also a monumental pillar inscribed to Mrs. Mary Anne Byrne, wife of Mr. John Byrne (formerly an eminent linen manufacturer of this town), who died in 1817; a slab was inserted in this monument bearing an epitaph, that finely commenced, "Mary Anne! to thee is erected," &c., but it has disappeared. There is also near this a tombstone commemorating a Mr. James M'Donnel, who died in 1828; the epitaph is a tribute of filial affection. In the centre of the cemetery, a curious monument has been erected by the inhabitants of Drogheda, as a testimony of esteem for Mr. Thomas Gulshey; and a handsome railed enclosure and monument have been constructed

(*a*) A distinguished solicitor, and a living member of this family, Richard Archbold, Esq., was the first Roman Catholic, who was qualified for admission to that profession, under the provisions of the Act 32 Geo. III. c. 21, and sworn at the earliest attainable date, July, 1797.

on the new ground, to John Chadwich, Esq., who died in January, 1841. No other memorials worthy of notice occur here, nor does any denote the grave of Doctor Bryan O'Reilly, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, who was interred here about the year 1757, having died at Termonfeckin, where, in a small farmhouse, he had resided during the chief period of his prelacy.

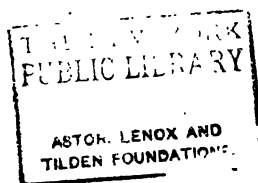
The Dominican Friary, or Abbey of Preaching Friars, under the invocation of St. Mary Magdalene, was situated in the north part of the town, near Sunday's gate, and immediately adjoining the town wall. The only remain of this once noble structure is, as depicted in the annexed engraving, a square tower of lofty proportions, popularly called the Magdalene steeple and a conspicuous object to all approaching the town. Springing from a noble pointed gothic arch, the buttresses of which, from their apparent slightness, appear scarcely sufficient to support the superincumbent weight, it contains two apartments above the arch, the intervening floor being groined from the angles, and the groins supported by cherubs' heads carved in stone; the walls are perforated by eight windows, two in each side, with cut stone casings. A spiral stone staircase is connected with the building, the entrance being at a considerable distance from the ground; the masonry, after the assaults of six centuries, is remarkably firm, and in fine preservation; there is, however, in the upper part of the east side, in the bat-



J. E. Jones sculp.

E. T. Lloyd lith.

Ruins of the Dominican Priory, Bristol.



tlement, a breach, said to have been made by Cromwell's cannon. This monastery was evidently cruciform and from its centre the above tower sprang, but the body of the building, and every other appendage, have long since perished so completely, that even the extent of the foundations is no longer ascertainable. It stands, a solitary memorial of former greatness, on the highest spot of the town, and its graveyard, consecrated by the dust of the most illustrious nobles and ecclesiastics, is now incumbered with hovels, and doled out in garden plots.

This house was founded about the year 1224, by Lucas de Netterville, Archbishop of Armagh, who, dying in 1227, was, according to some authorities, here interred, as was, with less of historic doubt, his successor, Patrick O'Scanlan, in 1271. In 1246, Pope Innocent the Fourth ordered the Prior of this house, and the Warden of the Franciscans of Dundalk, to cite, and summon to Rome, a certain person who had been irregularly elected to the Archdeaconry of Armagh, and also those who had so elected him; and in 1261, Pope Urban directed a Bull to the Bishop of Dromore, requiring him to instruct the Prior of this house, to oppose any encroachments attempted to be made on the liberties ecclesiastical, by the king's Justiciaries and Bailiffs. In 1290, a General Chapter of the Order in Ireland, was held in this friary, another in 1303, and a third in 1347. In 1300, Walter, son of Hugh, having made his escape from Carrickfergus gaol, took sanctuary in this

house, and, after performing the prescribed works of penance and atonement, abjured the land, as did Walter Galway under similar circumstances. The chief houses of this Order having been placed under the royal protection and bounty, liberates are of record, for payment of treasury pensions of thirty-five marks annually, to each of the Dominican establishments at Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and this town, in 1309 and subsequent years to 1358. In 1361, the Lady Joan Fleming, wife to Geoffrey Lord Travers, and the Lady Margaret Bermingham, wife of Lord Robert de Preston, were interred here; this latter lady was the daughter and heiress of Walter de Bermingham lord of Carberry, and her said lord, afterwards High Chancellor of Ireland, was the ancestor of the Viscounts Gormanston.

Richard the Second having sojourned in Drogheda for a short time, in the year 1394, on the occasion of his first visit to Ireland, he, on the 16th of March in that year, received within the walls of this friary, the submission of O'Neill, the King or Prince of Ulster, and of his subordinate chieftains, O'Hanlon, Mac Donnel, Mac Mahon, and others, who, in a solemn manner, did homage and fealty to the monarch. O'Neill's assumption of the title of king or prince, was not new to the ears of the English monarch, and certainly, he and his descendants, down to the days of Elizabeth, enjoyed more of the royalties and allegiance of Ulster, than did any British Sovereign. Petty kings of various localities in Ire-

land, as the kings of Connaught, Thomond, &c., were, from the first period of the English invasion, recognized in charters, grants, and treaties, but these kings, as the Black Book of Christ Church describes them, were not ordained by the solemnity of any rite, nor sacrament of unction, nor did they obtain or transmit their kingdoms by hereditary right, or any lawful succession, but each maintained his interest by force and arms. The words of O'Neill's homage, on this occasion, are recorded as conveying a pledge of peace and submission for himself, his children, his parents, his clan, and all his subjects; and, in the indenture between him and the king, he not only bound himself to remain faithful to the Crown of England, but to restore the "bonaught" (an exaction of the nature of soldiery billets) to the Lord Palatine of Ulster, as of right belonging to that Earldom, and usurped, among other rights and prerogatives, by the O'Neills. This, with the indentures and submissions of the other chieftains, the king himself caused to be formally attested, and delivered the enrolments with his own hands to the Bishop of Salisbury, then Lord Treasurer of England, and they remain of record in the English Exchequer. It is remarkable, says the late Doctor O'Connor, in his "Historical Addresses," that the penalties prescribed in these treaties, as consequent upon their violation, are all made payable in the Apostolic Chamber of Rome. Froissard, in his Chronicles, preserves many interesting particulars of the feasting, pageantry, and

honours, with which these new liegemen were subsequently received at the royal Court, while in Dublin. On the above occasion, Patrick, Bishop of Kilfenora, and Gregory, Bishop of Kilmacduagh, are also recorded to have taken the oath of fidelity to his Majesty; and, "from the correspondence that passed between Richard and his Council in England, during this expedition, it is clear, that he regarded the submission of O'Neill and the others, as a signal success gained by his presence, while the Council, in replying to his account of his 'noble voyage,' as they style it, return, like skilful courtiers, an echo to his own opinion." "In one important respect," adds Moore, with that honest wish, which his writings have ever evinced, to attract the sympathies of the civilized world to his misgoverned country, and arouse the better feelings of its infatuated rulers,—“In one important respect, these letters reflect credit on the monarch's memory, as showing him to have had sense enough to discover, that English misrule was the main cause of Irish revolt, and manly candour enough, to acknowledge so new and unpopular an opinion. 'There are in this our land,' writes King Richard from Dublin, 'three classes of persons, wild Irish or enemies, Irish rebels, and English subjects, and, considering that the rebels have been made such by wrongs, and by the want of due attention to their grievances, and that if they be not wisely treated, and encouraged by hopes of favour, they will, most probably, join themselves with our ene-

mies, we think it right to grant them a general pardon, and take them under our especial protection.' In their reply to this letter of the King, the Duke and the Council, after significantly reminding him, that they had formerly advised the adoption of severe measures against the rebels, add, that in deference to his wise discretion, and the greater opportunity he possessed of acquiring information on the spot, they freely assent to his views, provided, that in return for the pardons granted to the rebels, certain large ransoms and fines should be paid by them towards the charges of the king's voyage"(a).

In 1399, this house had a royal confirmation of its possessions, and in the same year, Pope Boniface the Ninth granted indulgences, on certain festivals, to all who visited its church, or the chapel of the Virgin Mary contiguous thereto, and the same Pontiff renewed this indulgence in 1401; while in 1400, King Henry the Fourth confirmed in perpetuity, the annual pension, which, as before mentioned, had been assigned for the Dominicans of this house, as well as those of Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and Limerick. In 1412, the dissensions that had so long, and so unhappily, existed between the towns-people at both sides of the river, were reconciled, by the advocacy of Philip Bennet, a friar of this house, as more particularly set forth hereafter. In 1467, the unfortunate Earl of Desmond, who was executed in

(a) Moore's History of Ireland, vol. iii. pp. 127-8.

Drogheda, was first interred here, but, according to some authorities, his monument and remains were removed to Christ Church, Dublin, in 1570, by order of Sir Henry Sydney, when he visited this town and friary. According to the Four Masters, however, his body was carried to Tralee, where it was buried with honour and great solemnity, in the family vault. In consequence of the poverty of the country, occasioned by the incessant depredations of "English rebels and Irish enemies," this abbey fell into decay; and, in the Parliament held in this town in 1468, in consideration of its then ruinous state, and because the alms of the public were totally insufficient for its support, an Act was passed, granting to the Prior and Convent an annuity of twenty marks, payable out of the fee farm of the city of Dublin, for the necessary repair and better support of this house. In sixteen years afterwards, in a General Chapter of the Order held at Rome, a license was granted to Maurice Morral, Prior Provincial, to reform this friary.

Consequent upon the dissolution, an inquisition was taken in 1543, when Peter Lewis, the last Prior, was found seised of the site of this house, containing one acre and a half, annual value, besides reprises, tenpence; also of a messuage and park near Duleek gate, containing one acre, value 6*s.* 8*d.*; a garden in Fair-street, value 2*d.*; a close called the Culver-house park, near Rothe's land, value 5*s.*; sundry other messuages and closes in Drogheda; five acres of meadow and three of pasture, with a close called the

fir park and the appurtenances in Philipstown, in the county of the town of Drogheda, annual value, besides reprises, 3s. 4d. In 1544, this friary, with its appurtenances in Drogheda and Philipstown, and an acre of meadow near Bedloweston in the county Meath, were granted for ever, *in capite*, at the annual rent of 2s. 2d., to Walter Beck and Edward Dowdal (the latter individual resided at Glaspistol, near this town, and in 1559, was one of the representatives of the county Louth in Queen Elizabeth's first Irish Parliament; in 1618, Walter Dowdal was, accordingly, as his heir, found seised in fee of a messuage in Le Bothe-street, two acres near the Rothe park, two near Managhmore, within the liberties of the town, and an acre near Bedloweston, all described as parcel of the possessions of this friary). In this last year it was also found, on inquisition, that John Fotrel, and John Cosgrave of Little Cabragh, in the county Dublin, were seised in fee, for the use of Sir Ambrose Forth and his heirs and assigns, of this house and appurtenances, being of the yearly value of 10s., besides reprises; certain messuages in Duleek-street and Lawrence-street; two orchards in Irish-street; twelve acres of meadow in the liberties of Drogheda near Philipstown, a messuage in Dyer-street; two messuages and an orchard on the Meath side of the town; nine acres near Much Beaubec in the county of the town of Drogheda; three crofts near Le Cowlies in said county; and a messuage without Duleek gate. In 1630, Lord Gormanston

was found seised in tail male of sundry messuages in Drogheda; one in Lawrence-street; one in Bow-street; four in St. Peter's-street; one in Sunday's-street; two in St. John's-street; three acres of meadow within the bog near Beaubec; one messuage outside St. James's-gate; one orchard outside St. Lawrence's gate; one messuage near the town-hall; one garden on the big hill; one little croft outside Duleek gate; one messuage in West-street; one in Fair-street; one other messuage and an acre, parcel of the possessions of this house; while of the remaining parcels, so granted to Walter Dowdal, his son and heir, George Dowdal, had livery in July, 1641.

The author of the *Hibernia Dominicana* speaks of this house of his order, as in his time exhibiting very considerable traces of its former magnificence.

The Grey or Franciscan Friary.—No vestige of this religious house can be now seen. It was, however, situated close to the river on its northern bank, about the site on which the custom-house and collector's house now stand, the mansion of Alderman Leigh, long the representative of Drogheda in Parliament, having been intermediately erected on the ruins. Its foundation, by some attributed to D'Arcy of Platten, by others to one of the Plunkett family, is by Wadding alleged to have taken place in the year 1270, and it is of record, that in 1293, the king granted the sum of 35 marks to be paid annually to the Franciscans of this house; and a similar sum to the establishments of their order in Dublin, Water-

ford, Cork, and Limerick, respectively, and liberates for the continuance of these payments are still found on the rolls of the years 1324, 1333, 1344, and 1354. The privileges of this house, also, as a sanctuary, are proved by being extended to four criminals in the year 1300. In 1330, the buildings suffered most materially by an overflow of the Boyne. In 1356, the celebrated Primate Richard Fitz Ralph maintained his controversy in this town, more especially against the friars of this house, and actually attempted to remove the ornaments thereof to his own palace; the regulars were, however, protected, and their property preserved by Bathe, then Mayor of the town. The particulars of the controversy are fully detailed in *Ware's Bishops*, p. 82. A general Chapter of the order was held here in 1359, while in 1436 an inquiry was taken before the Lord Lieutenant and Council, relative to certain misdemeanors imputed to John Dartas, Esq., who not having appeared to answer said charges, either there or in Chancery, his lands and possessions were ordered to be estreated.

In 1518, the Observantine friars reformed this monastery, soon after which, on the dissolution, Richard Molane, the last warden hereof, was, by inquisition of 1543, on surrender of his possessions to the Crown, found seised of a burgage and garden in Swords, held of the Archbishop of Dublin; a messuage and three acres of meadow, in Drogheda; three

acres of meadow near Bebeck, annual value, besides reprises, 3s. 4d.; all which premises, together with the friary, were subsequently in the same year granted to Gerald Aylmer, *in capite*, for ever, at the yearly rent of 3s. 6d. His descendant, James Aylmer of Dullardston, in 1581, conveyed same, with other premises, to trustees, and so continued seised thereof, to the close of that century, the premises being held *in capite* by knight's service. Early in the seventeenth century this friary and its appurtenances passed, by mesne assignment, to Sir Moyses Hill, who was found seised thereof in 1624. [It may be mentioned of this individual, who was the ancestor of the present Marquess of Downshire, that he arrived in this country in the year 1573, one of the officers under the Earl of Essex, when that ill-fated nobleman was chosen to suppress the rebellion of O'Neill in Ulster. After the misfortunes and death of that nobleman, Sir Moyses served under his son, Robert Earl of Essex, who, in 1598, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Ireland, and sent with a considerable army to prosecute the war; and, on Essex's subsequent return, in 1599, to England, Sir Moyses continued in the army under Lord Mountjoy, by whom he was appointed Governor of Oldfleet Castle, a very important fortress in those times, as guarding the harbour of Larne from the invasion of the Scots. When Sir John Chichester was slain by the M'Donnells, Sir Moyses narrowly escaped an am-

bush laid by them, by flying into Island Magee, on the adjacent coast, and there secreting himself in a cave, since that time called Sir Moyses Hill's cave. He afterwards served under Lord Chichester when Lord Deputy, and in 1603, was constituted Provost Marshall of the troops in Carrickfergus. The possessions, which he so acquired in Drogheda and its vicinity, continued in his descendants, one of whom, Marcus Hill, then of the Middle Temple, mortgaged same in 1710, to Lord Blessington, while Lord Hillsborough, in the same line of inheritance, suffered recoveries thereof in 1742].

St. Saviour's Chapel stood close to the water, immediately westward of the present Shop-street, and was founded about the close of the thirteenth, or commencement of the fourteenth century; on which occasion Alan Proudfoot gave two messuages in this town to the Prior of Lanthony, in frankalmoigne for ever, on the consideration of his finding two chaplains, daily to serve in this house, for the term of one hundred years. This service having been withdrawn or subtracted, the King's Escheator seized upon the premises, but the Prior obtained their restoration from the king(a). By several inquisitions taken in 1611, it was found that the Priory of the Blessed Virgin, of Duleek, had been entitled to "a cellar in St. Saviour's dock, under St. Saviour's

(a) Rot. claus. 33 Edw. III. in Canc. Hib.

church," a waste plot of ground here, adjoining said church, and other premises. In the year 1664, Alderman Jonas Elwood had a lease of part of the possessions of this house, for 61 years, at the yearly rent of "forty shillings to the Corporation, and a barrel of good wheat to the poor;" some of these premises, however, it was found necessary to pull down at the time of the erection of the present bridge, in 1722. Another portion was leased, in 1674, to Hugh Fowkes, for a like term of 61 years, and in 1687, the Corporation, appointed by James the Second, leased "a ruinous church on St. Saviour's quay, called St. Saviour's Church, together with the churchyard, and the house commonly called the Bridewell," to a trustee, for 99 years, for the use of the Jesuits. Other parts of the property of this house were demised for 61 years to Patrick Delahoyde; and lastly, in 1745, Mr. Charles Caldwell had a lease for 61 years of "St. Saviour's Church, and also the site, circuit, and precinct of the said ruined church of St. Saviour, excepting the vault or cellar under the same, being the inheritance of the Right Honorable the Earl of Drogheda."

St. Sunday's Friary was situated near St. Sunday's Gate, as a lateral portion of the nave, exhibited in the view of the Dominican Friary, yet remains to testify. Its site was, on the dissolution, granted to the Dowdal family, and, accordingly, by inquisition of 1589, it was found that George, brother of

Walter Dowdal, then late of Drogheda, was seised in fee of a house known by the name of St. Sunday's-Friars, with two orchards, and a garden belonging thereto, in this town, of the annual value of 6s. 8d.

St. Benet's Chapel was another religious house of this town, existing in the fifteenth century; for, in the Parliament held here in 1467, before John Earl of Worcester, Lord Deputy, it was ordained, that divers lands and possessions, and certain chief-rents in Dublin, should be granted to this house by name; its site cannot now be identified. It may be here added, that there is an old house called "*The Nunnery*," in Dyer-street, which was formerly tenanted by the first members of the community that now occupies the Sienna; and this notice concludes all that can be observed of the ancient religious houses of Drogheda, north of the Boyne.

At the south side of the river was *the Priory of St. John the Baptist*, founded in the twelfth century by Walter de Lacy, or at least liberally endowed by him, and made a cell to the Priory of Kilmainham. Some walls are yet standing within the circuit of a tan yard in St. John-street, which common repute refers to this foundation. There is also a tradition that King John, when he visited Drogheda in the August of 1210, held a Parliament in this Priory; and, considering such an assembly as rather a great council, the opinion is by no means

improbable. In 1359, the prior of this house had license to hold four acres of meadow and pasture in Drogheda, with the appurtenances; while in 1385 he was found on inquisition to have acquired, contrary to the Statute of Mortmain, a garden on the Meath side of the town, and was thereupon ordered to restore the same to the right heir. In 1476 he was empowered by Act of Parliament to acquire sixty acres in Priorstown, which were thereupon freed of all subsidies. After the dissolution, a part of the possessions of this establishment was granted to Richard Netterville; while a larger was previously conferred by Edward the Sixth, on James Sedgrave of Dublin, merchant, who also passed patent for the Priory of St. John the Baptist of Dublin, the Nunnery of St. Mary de Hogges, with certain of its estates also in Dublin, the prebend of Timothan, with the village and tithes, &c. &c. His interest in Drogheda passed, on the marriage of his daughter, to a member of the Ball family, whose demesne of Ball's-grove, near the town, is part of the ecclesiastical land. The assignees had also in right thereof, the tithes, both great and small, of the premises, and certain other parcels described as "adjoining the lands of St. John's Hospital, opposite the Bull-ring, and backwards into John-street."

The Carmelite Monastery.—The records and memorials of this religious house are collected in the former part of this work, in the history of St. Mary's church, which has been erected on its site.

The Hospital of St. James.—This religious house lay without St. James's gate, and was founded at the close of the thirteenth century. In 1302, Richard is mentioned to have been its master. On the dissolution it vested in the Crown, who thus acquired its possessions, like those of other religious houses, at the easy charges of paying annuities to the total amount of about one-fourth of its yearly income to a few old friars. No notice of their conveyance from the Crown appears on record until 1611, when King James granted to Richard Nugent, Lord Delvin, amongst other possessions, the site of this hospital, with sixty acres arable thereto belonging, in or near Drogheda, at the yearly rent of £1 6s. 8d. The rectory was, however, in a previous grant, included in that of St. Mary's parish, and conveyed to Lord Drogheda. In the middle of the seventeenth century, the Corporation acquired the chief possessions of this hospital, which, by the description of "the house or hospital of St. James, with its messuages, houses, windmill, &c." they in 1678 demised to Christopher Peppard St. George, for a term of sixty-one years, at the yearly rent of £8 10s., under which title (though not without very litigated opposition, as hereinafter mentioned) the Peppard family held them down to the year 1740. In 1715, eight acres of these premises passed by mesne assignment from Charles Campbell to Alderman Byrne of this town; and in 1759, the

Corporation granted sixty-one years' leases of other parts of the possessions of this house (described as situated within the parish of St. Mary), to Edward Chesshire, Junior, and to William Holmes.

CORPORATE HISTORY.

FROM the earliest period of Anglo-Norman government in Ireland, this town was, in municipal privileges and political consequence, always considered as on an equality with the four royal cities of Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, and Cork; it is indeed within the memory of some of its old residents, that, in evidence of the care with which this Corporation regarded their own precedence, even to every other chartered body, immediately on the annual election of their mayor, which took place on the 29th of September, a messenger, who waited outside the Tholsel until the oath was administered, was despatched, in official robes and mounted on a white horse, to inform the authorities of Dublin of the fact, to the intent that they might proceed in the appointment of their chief magistrate, which took place accordingly on the following day. Nor was Drogheda perhaps unworthy of such self-asserted deference, situated as it was between Louth, the granary of the empire, and Meath, once the mensal province of the kings of Ireland, the Palati-

nate of De Lacy and his heirs, and the bulwark and terminator for centuries of the English Pale; commanding, as it did, by land the great avenue to Ulster, and opening inwardly to the trade of Ireland, and seaward to the commerce of Great Britain. The most expressive testimony, as well to these facts, as to the confiding attachment with which the borough, from its earliest creation as such, looked to the protection and friendship of England, is typified in the heraldic emblems displayed in the corporate, and yet more in the mayor's ancient seals. The former presents the crowded towers and gates of a castle on the sea-side, three lions issuing from a gate at the left, and the prow of a ship emerging from another at the right, the motto, "*Sigillum commune villæ de Drogheda in Hiberniâ.*" The mayor's seal is yet more expressive, exhibiting, on a field azure, a crenelated gate of two towers argent, portcullised sable, surmounted by pennons gules; on the dexter a ship appearing to sail behind the gate, having St. George's ensign displayed over her stern; on the sinister three lions of England issuant or; crest on a wreath, a crescent, and star argent. Motto, "*Deus præsidium, mercatura decus.*" In addition to these were used a privy and staple seal.

The Corporation is styled "the Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the town of Drogheda," and has heretofore consisted of a Mayor, twenty-three other Aldermen, two Sheriffs, the Sheriffs'-peers, or persons who had served the office

of Sheriff, and fourteen common-councilmen. The Mayor was chosen by the Assembly from the Aldermen; the Aldermen and the Sheriffs by the Assembly from the freemen, while the fourteen common-councilmen were elected by the guilds of trade; the freedom is acquired by birth and apprenticeship, and, it would seem, by marriage also. The Recorder was likewise appointed by the Assembly, as was the town clerk. About the middle of the last century, the governing part of the Corporation imposed a qualification on the right of freemen and apprentices to obtain their freedom, by requiring that such persons should present preliminary petitions to the corporate body, setting forth their titles, and praying their privilege accordingly, and that such petitions should be preferred six months before the election; this assumption was, however, tried on a *mandamus*, brought by Ralph Eccleston, in 1770, and disallowed. The Mayor, Recorder, Mayor of the Staple, and two senior Aldermen who had served the office of Mayor, were constituted justices of the peace under the charter, and five additional justices were appointed under the Act of 7 Geo. IV. c. 61.

The Corporation comprises the following guilds of trade:—Bakers—Butchers—Carpenters—Shoemakers—Skinners—Smiths—Tailors. To these guilds the body granted separate charters of record, preserved in “the White Book,” and they are conducted by their own respective regulations. There

are also officers of the Corporation, who are not constituent parts of the body, as the Aldermen, Justices, Mayor and Constables of the Staple, Master and Wardens of the Guild of Merchants, Coroners, Recorder, Town Clerk, Register of the Tholsel, Clerk of the Peace, Sword-bearer and Clerk of the Cornmarket, Mace-bearer and Clerk of the Court of Conscience, Water Bailiff, Harbour Master, Chief Constable, six town serjeants, &c. &c. The Mayor presides at the Assemblies, is a justice of the peace for the county of the town, judge of the Tholsel Court, the Courts of Conscience and Pie Poudre, and has hitherto acted as escheator and clerk of the market. The Aldermen have always, by charter, enjoyed with the other members of the Corporation, an exemption from the payment of tolls and customs, a valuable privilege to those engaged in trade, and which is expressly saved and continued by the third section of the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108. They had also privileges upon letting the corporate property, and each of the sixteen senior Aldermen had for life one of sixteen acres called Aldermen's Acres, from which they derived an annual income of £3. The free-men, besides the elective franchise, enjoy the freeman's right on the letting of corporate property, and an exclusive claim for relief when requisite, from some charitable funds under the control of the Corporation, which latter privilege is still saved to them by the second section of the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108. The other alterations, effected by that Act in the

constitution of this body, will be more conveniently noted at the close of this section; here the statutes, charters and mandates, which conferred its corporate character and powers, shall be succinctly detailed in chronological succession.

Drogheda may be truly considered, in its corporate origin, as of the prescriptive class. Immediately after the English invasion, and on the grant of Meath as a palatinate to Hugh de Lacy, he, according to his powers, created here, what may be termed a borough of the earliest species, where the tenure was base or villeinage. The king's consent, for such its constitution, is to be inferred from the terms of the grant of the palatinate, which took place in 1172, and is recognized in immediately subsequent transactions of record. It is conjectured, that Bertram de Verdon, who was, at the same time, seised of the northern portion of the town, under a similar grant of the maritime part of Louth, next adjoining De Lacy's, from Dundalk to the barony of Ferrard inclusive, constituted at his side of the river another borough, such as by inquisition taken, on a writ *ad quod damnum* (a), he was found to have established, with common of pasture and rights of fishery, within his territory of Dundalk. The supposition is strengthened by the fact, that when King John, in 1210, erected the counties of Meath and Louth, while he took the boroughs to himself, and constituted them

(a) Inquis. 6 Edw. II., in Offic. Ch. Rememb.

royal boroughs, he yet allowed moiety annuities to be issuing thereout to De Lacy and De Verdon, for the sites of their respective portions(*a*).

The soil of the town was, as usual in these early grants, parcelled out to the tenants and inhabitants, who paid each a prescribed rent to their lord for his burgage, or, as it is sometimes termed, the frankhouse which he so held; this was necessarily accompanied with a liberty of commonage, and a use of the waters of the river as a fishery and in aid of mill-sites, and thus, Drogheda appears to have originally comprised two distinct boroughs, under De Lacy and De Verdon. After the murder of the former at Durrow, but when a fresh patent confirmed in 1189, all his other possessions to his son Walter de Lacy, the Crown reserved the castle which De Lacy, in the sound exercise of his judgment, had erected here, as at other points of the Pale, for the defence of the English settlement, and thenceforth that fortress was held for the service of the king, by a warden appointed for the purpose, and continued so severed from the borough, like those in the sister country, until rejoined by force of the Act of Parliament passed in the thirteenth year of the reign of Richard the Second. In a suit instituted many years after the death of this Walter (in 1343), it was alleged on record, that he had substracted, after the Statute of Mortmain, forty acres from the commons

(*a*) Rot. 33 & 34 Edw. III., in Offic. Ch. Rememb.

of the borough, and granted them in frankalmoigne, and without the royal license, to the religious house of Beaubec in Normandy, who assigned them to the Prior of Lanthony near Gloucester, who was, therefore, impleaded for the restoration thereof; the Prior, however, defended his right, and satisfactorily proved that the land in question was not of the commons of Drogheda (suggesting thereby, as was the fact, that the commons were inalienable), and also that the conveyance preceded the Statute of Mortmain, and the king commanded his Escheator (Roger D'Arcy), who had seized the premises, to restore them to the Church(a).

The first operations of a legislative nature, that were sought to be adopted in Ireland, in cities, boroughs, and towns corporate, were required by the mandate of King John in 1204. On the 10th of February in that year, he issued his writs to the Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, and clergy, as also to the Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Knights, citizens, merchants, burgesses, and freeholders of Ireland, and, after notifying the conduct of the King of France, who was at war with him, and sought to

(a) Rot. Pat. 14 Edw. III., in Tur. Lond.; Rot. Claus. 17, 18 Edw. III.; and 32 Edw. III., in Canc. Hib. The Escheator, here named, was the second son of the great Sir John D'Arcy. In 1344, he was a Justice in Eyre in Limerick, when the king gave him the manor of Esker in the county of Dublin during his life, and afterwards constituted him Lord Justice of Ireland, with a salary of £500 *per annum*.

disinherit him of his dominions, he states, that the people of England had liberally, and in consideration of his urgency, granted him an effectual aid of men and money for service in Normandy, and, therefore, "as such an emergency has never hitherto occurred, nor is ever likely to occur again, we," says his Majesty, "entreat you, not as of custom, but from your love for us, and regard for our person and honour, to make an effectual aid for us in this our necessity, of which our Justiciary of Ireland, and our delegates, will acquaint you"(a). This recognition of burgesses being summoned to vote supplies to the Crown, at a period so early, is both curious and important. That the parties complied with the king's request, is proved by the fact of his royal expression of thanks, as for the aid so granted to him, having been transmitted to Ireland, by writ of the first of September following(b); and, from the almost contemporaneous documents herein set forth, there can be little doubt, that Drogheda was of the tributary boroughs upon this occasion. In a mandate of 1205, from King John to Meiler Fitz Henry, then Lord Justice of Ireland, that monarch declared his royal pleasure, that fairs should be established at Dublin, Drogheda, Waterford, and Limerick; that at Drogheda to be held on the festival of St. John the Baptist, and to continue for eight days, with toll and custom thereto belonging; and the king directed his said Deputy to

(a) Rot. Chart. in Tur. Lond. (b) Rot. Pat. in Tur. Lond.

give public notice thereof by proclamation, in order that merchants might resort thither^(a). While from the state of the country at that period, and the selection above made, it was manifestly considered, that the commerce of Irish fairs could only be advantageously held where seaport boroughs offered the intercourse of merchants, the facility of courts, the protection of walls and castles, and where tolls were incidentally established for upholding such securities, the fact of this place being then a borough, is yet more conclusively declared in a contemporaneous writ, whereby Stephen de Nevin, who had

(a) Similar patents for fairs, with customs, were subsequently of frequent grant, while those, not so licensed, were at first discountenanced, and afterwards denounced, as by a special Act of the Parliament of Dublin in 1429 (unprinted). "Likewise, inas-much as divers enemies of our lord the king, levy, raise, and hold amongst them, different fairs and markets; and sundry merchants, liege Englishmen, go and repair to the said fairs and markets, and some send their merchandize to the said enemies by their servants or people called laxmen, and there sell and buy divers merchandizes and things vendible, whereout the said enemies take great customs and benefits, to their great profit, and the depression of all the boroughs and trading towns of this land and of the liege subjects of the same land, it is agreed and established, that henceforth, no manner of merchant, nor any other liege person, shall go, nor resort, in time of peace nor of war, to any manner of fair, market, nor other place, among the said enemies, with merchandizes or things vendible, nor send the same to them, unless it be to redeem some prisoner from them who may be the king's liege man; and if any liege man do the contrary of this ordinance, let him be held and adjudged as a felon of our lord the king."

been attached by his "burgage" in Drogheda, for plundering a ship of Leytown, but who afterwards sued out a pardon, was thereupon restored to his said "burgage"(a). In 1210, however, when King John made his second visit to Ireland, and sojourned in Drogheda, he disseised De Lacy of his possessions(b); whereupon, and having erected, as before mentioned, the two counties of Meath and Louth, he took both boroughs to his especial protection, and, in three years afterwards, he, by their first royal charter, "granted, and confirmed, to our burgesses of the bridge of Drogheda, and their heirs, for ever, that they might have and enjoy the law of Bristol, with all liberties and customs appertaining thereto, and that they might use the same as well in England as in Ireland, as others hold and enjoy the same throughout the land(c). That this charter contemplated both boroughs, seems confirmed by the distinction drawn in a patent of 1216, whereby Nicholas, son and heir of Bertram de Verdon, had seisin of "Ponte Ferrardi" (i. e. Drogheda at the Ferrard side of the bridge), the king retaining to himself the borough "Villâ ipsâ de Ponte."

By the Great Charter for Ireland, bearing date in 1216, it was, amongst other things, provided, that cities, towns, boroughs, and ports, should enjoy all their liberties and free customs, a form of confirma-

(a) Rot. Claus. in Tur. Lond.

(b) Rot. Claus. 4 & 6 Hen. III. in Tur. Lond.

(c) Rot. Chart. 15 John, in Tur. Lond.

tion, which long after continued to be preserved, at the commencement of the Acts of each succeeding session. In two years afterwards, Henry the Third ordered his Justiciary to obtain another aid from the cities, boroughs, and demesnes of the Crown in Ireland, after which the levying such talliages became frequent. In 1220, the king granted another royal patent(*a*) for fairs here, and in the same year, Walter de Lacy had a fresh confirmation(*b*) of his late father's possessions here, which were all upon the Meath side of the river, reserving the castle and borough to the Crown; while the patent provided, that De Lacy should have the talliage and aid of the town, as far as appertained to the castle, and should pay a certain reserved farm rent for his lands at Drogheda. In 1225, it was commanded by royal mandate, that the men of Drogheda should have free ingress and egress in that port with their merchandize, without paying tolls or customs; and, in the following year, the burgesses of this town were, with the citizens of Limerick, reimbursed for certain payments and advances which they had made in support of the war against Hugh de Lacy. On the 12th of April, 1228, the king granted to his good men of Drogheda, without any distinction (as should be the case for a work of mutual advantage), license to take, during one year only, certain customs therein speci-

(*a*) Rot. Pat. 5 Henry III. in Tur. Lond.

(*b*) Rot. Claus. 4 Henry III. in Tur. Lond.

fied, in aid of making the bridge, or rather of its better construction, for the existence of a prior bridge there is evinced by the above records, and will be shown at an earlier period in the General History. Henceforth, however, the distinction of the two boroughs is markedly preserved, the one to the north of the Boyne, called Drogheda *ex parte* Uriel, the other to the south, Drogheda *ex parte* Mediæ; a necessity which, induced as it was by the distinct territorial proprietors, was also rendered advisable, by the Boyne being then the understood boundary between Leinster and Ulster, between the Pale and the Irishry, and, as before mentioned, between the newly created counties of Meath and Louth.

On the 20th of September, 1229, by a more express declaration of the privileges that were implied by the Patent of 1213, the king granted to his burgesses of Drogheda, that his town of Drogheda at the Louth side, should be a free borough for ever (that is, should be exempt for evermore from the varying and arbitrary tenure of villeinage, and be subjected to but one fixed farm rent, herein defined as sixty marks *per annum*, and to be chargeable on the borough collectively, as a substitute for the military service arising out of the knight's fees in rural districts); that they should have a guild merchant, with hanse and other liberties and free customs; that none but those of the guild should make merchandize within the borough, unless by the will of the burgesses; that they and their heirs should have

soc and sac(*a*), thol and theam, and infangthef, &c.; be quit of toll, lastage, passage, pontage, stallage, through all parts, and all the king's demesnes in his hands at the time of making the charter; that none of them plead without the hundred of the borough, of any plea except pleas of external tenures; that they should be free from amerciaments for murders committed within the boundaries of their town; that none should be permitted to have recourse to wager of battle, on appeals, but have privilege to plead in cases of pleas of the Crown, in manner as customary in Dublin; that no one should exact entertainment within the borough, by force or by livery of the marshal. This charter also gave power to hold pleas of debt there, and to distrain their debtors, free passage in the port with their merchandize, and liberty to hold a hundred court in every fortnight; directed that no burgess should be amerced above twelve pence; that they should elect their own provosts, "appointing such as are fit for the Crown and themselves;" that two burgesses should be elected at

(*a*) Soc signifies the power of holding a court, with jurisdiction over the free socagers, or tenants of certain and honorable service. Sac was a royalty or privilege of holding a plea of trespass within a manor. Thol gave authority to take, or to be free from tolls (as the case might be) within a manor. Theam licensed the lord to hold plea over his bondmen or villeins in his court. Infangthef gave jurisdiction to judge a thief taken within the manor. Lastage was ship toll; Passage, export duty; Pontage, bridge toll; Stallage, a charge for liberty to set up booths and stalls for the sale of goods, at markets or fairs.

the Assizes, before the King's Justices, by the Common Council, to keep the pleas of the Crown, and "to see that the provosts of the borough justly and lawfully treated as well the poor as the rich of the borough;" that none might exact pledges from them unless with their own consent; "that they should have their fishery in the water of Drogheda, as they had ever had, and used to have it, in the times of the king's predecessors;" that no stranger should export victuals thence without their license; that no merchant should sell cloth in the borough by retail, nor wine on draught; and "that they might improve in making buildings on the bank of the Boyne, as far as the stream of the water, and elsewhere within their bounds." This charter also confirmed to them all liberties and free customs used in the time of the king's predecessors, to have and to hold the borough, with its appurtenances, and the water of Drogheda in fee farm, of the Crown, by a rent of sixty marks payable half yearly. The witnesses to this instrument are Hubert de Burgo, Earl of Kent, Justice of England; Stephen de Segrave, and others. [The last named individual was a remarkable instance of the instability of a courtier's honours; he alternately enjoyed the favour and experienced the displeasure of King Henry the Third. In his youth, from a priest he became a soldier, and though of low birth, by his diligence acquired so much wealth and honour, that he was soon accounted among the chief men of the kingdom, was appointed

Justice of England, and managed almost all the affairs of the nation as he pleased. At length he quite lost the king's favour, and, secreting himself in a monastery, resumed the tonsure he had before abandoned, and died in the order of a religious].

In 1244, the good men of Drogheda were, by a royal mandate to the King's Treasurer, relieved from payment of arrears of the chief rent of their town, and of accruing gales for some prospective years, in consequence of the services rendered by them in some military expeditions against the Irishry(*a*). In this same year the king ordered his Justiciary to cause equal weights and measures to be used throughout Ireland, he the Justiciary having first convoked a council of all the discreet burgesses of that land(*b*). On the 16th of June, 1247, the members of the borough at the Meath side received a similar charter, as a free borough, to that granted as before mentioned, in 1229, to the borough on the Louth side; and withal, a privilege, that they might annually elect their seneschal and provosts; that they should have their fishery in the water of Drogheda as before; that none should award attachments within their franchises, except the Provosts or Coroners; none be impleaded of any tenement unless by writ of right; that none should exact toll or custom from said burgesses; that they should have their burgages and their acres, with their appurtenances, within

(*a*) Rot. Pat. 28 Hen. III. in Tur. Lond.

(*b*) Rot. Claus. in Tur. Lond.

their boundaries, as before well and freely granted to them; "that they might marry amongst themselves, their sons, and daughters, and widows, without seeking license therefor from their feudal lords;" that they should be exempt from arrest except in cases of felony; that none should use wager of battle, but might clear himself by twenty-four lawful men of said borough; that they should be quit of wreck of the sea in all the king's lands and dominions; "that none shall oppose the progress of commerce or trade to said borough, by sea or land, but permit it to come and go without any impediment." This also established an annual fair on the vigil of the Assumption and seven following days, and a market on every Wednesday; and that this borough should be held at the annual rent of forty marks. Witnesses, Richard Earl of Cornwall, John Fitz-Geoffry, Justice of Ireland, and others. On the 12th September, 1253, King Henry the Third, by charter tested at Clarendon, confirmed the aforesaid charter of 1229 to the burgesses of Drogheda on the Louth side, with all their liberties as they had hitherto used them, "in the times of our predecessors, Kings of England, and our own," giving them, also, the same privileges as to marrying among themselves as was given to the Meath Corporation. It further granted, that no Sheriff or other ministers should intermeddle in attachments or summonses, within the franchises, except its own coroners and provosts; that the Templars or Hospitallers should not have

in the borough any man or messuage free of customs, except one; that no merchant stranger should remain therein for selling his wares above forty days; "that if any person shall have held any tenement within said borough, by gift, or purchase, or inheritance, for one year and a day, without challenge, and another claim title therein, and without any disqualification yet making no challenge therefor, such claimant shall lose his challenge for ever; and if any one shall have desired to bring any ship laden with wine to said borough, and through stress of weather shall have landed elsewhere, he shall not be compelled to give prizes thereof, unless he may wish to sell those wines in such place;" that if any burgess were attached without the borough, the Mayor and Burgesses should have of him their court, and give justice to the complainant "in the same way that an Earl or Baron, or any other Magnate of Ireland ought to hold his court for his men, according to the law of our land of Ireland." It likewise permitted an annual fair here on the eve of St. Luke and the fourteen days following, with all free customs and liberties thereunto belonging. A "*compotus*" of the borough, "*ex parte*," was this year rendered to the Exchequer by John Taylor, a copy of which is preserved in the Lambeth Manuscripts.

In the third year of the reign of Edward the First (1275) the earliest perpetual grant of customs payable on wool, skins, &c., was made to the Crown by the Parliament of England. Many of the great

lords thereof, at that time, were also Magnates or Barons of Ireland, in right of extensive possessions in that country, and to those magnates belonged Wexford, Arklow, Wicklow, Drogheda, Dundalk, Carlingford, and many other of the principal sea ports and mercantile towns, lying within peculiar liberties, where such customs would become payable. In consequence of this, as a necessary preliminary, the king obtained the written sealed certificates of "certain Magnates of Ireland," as he calls them, and amongst them of Roger de Mortimer, Theobald de Verdon, &c., certifying that they had made the grant already mentioned, in the English Parliament, and that on this second occasion they granted, that King Edward should have, in all their ports in Ireland, the same customs on wools and skins thereout exported; saving, however, to themselves, the forfeiture of all such merchandize as passed through their fees or liberties without paying these customs to the king, and so that in all their ports, where the king's writs had not currency, two of the more discreet and faithful men of those parts should be elected. and should be sworn to arrest such merchandize, until, &c.(a) Roger de Mortimer having intermarried with the grand-daughter, and Theobald de Verdon with the great grand-daughter of the respective coheiresses of Hugh de Lacy, and thereby acquired the rights of that family in Drogheda between them, their assent became of especial importance to the king. In 1282,

(a) Fine Roll in Turr. Lond. 3 Edw. I.

on the occasion of the insurrection of the Welch, the usual aid was sought by Edward the First, from the citizens, burgesses, merchants, and commons of all cities, boroughs, and mercantile towns in Ireland, including, of course, Drogheda^(a).

In reference to the year 1285, a passage occurs in the very venerable document entitled the "Domesday Book of Develyn Cittie," in the ancient Chartulary of that Corporation, which bears a peculiar interest in the history of this and other Irish borough towns, and may be translated as follows: "To all persons who shall see or hear these presents, the Mayor and citizens of Cork send greeting in the Lord. Know ye, that we in common council, by consent and assent, and of our voluntary will, have granted for us and our successors, to the Mayor and citizens of Dublin, the Mayor and citizens of Waterford, the Mayor and citizens of Drogheda on the side of Louth; the Mayor and citizens of Limerick, and the seneschal and burgesses of Drogheda on the side of Meath; that if it shall happen, which heaven forbid, that any person by whatsoever authority, shall attempt or presume to impugn, infringe, or lessen the liberties granted to them, Dublin, Waterford, Drogheda, &c., by charters from the illustrious Kings of England, in whatsoever manner, in whatsoever places or times, or before whatsoever persons ecclesiastical or secular; by reason whereof, for their defence or protection, expenses, charges, and labours shall of

(a) Rot. Walliæ in Tur. Lond.

necessity accrue; so often as shall be required, we will afford them all counsel and assistance to the utmost of our power, saving the rights of our Lord the King, and the faith and fealty to him due; and for our apportioned share of the said expenses, rated according to the extent of the means of the said cities and boroughs, to uphold the liberties aforesaid, and in accordance with the provisions made by the said citizens and burgesses, we will be answerable to them without any difficulty or contradiction. It is also granted, and in common council ordained, that once in term, viz., on the morrow of the Holy Trinity, two or three of the most discreet persons of the aforesaid cities and boroughs, shall assemble at Kilkenny, to consider and treat of matters concerning their liberties, and to adjudge in what most convenient and suitable manner their said liberties may be best preserved uninjured; and, if one or more persons belonging to the before-mentioned cities or boroughs shall presume to infringe this grant and ordinance, or shall fail to observe the form of the matters above set forth, he or they shall be held justly indebted to those who shall duly observe the form aforesaid, in the sum of £20 sterling, for their charges, expenses, and trouble, in such manner, that after he or they shall have been warned to pay the said £20, and shall fail to pay the same, then it shall be lawful for the parties observing the form aforesaid, to arrest the goods of the party not observing the same, where-

ever they shall be found, and without any hinderance or contradiction, to levy in full out of the said goods the said £20, and to execute their will and pleasure upon the same. In witness whereof we have caused our common seal to be affixed to these presents. Dated at Kilkenny, on the Friday next before the feast of the Holy Trinity, in the thirteenth year of the reign of King Edward." Sir William Betham considers this passage as conclusive evidence, that the cities and boroughs of Ireland were not then represented in Parliament. "If," he observes(*a*), "the cities and towns were then represented in Parliament, these agreements for their mutual protection would not have been necessary, and therefore it may be considered a natural and conclusive deduction, that they were not then represented in the Parliaments, one of which was held in the very year in which this agreement was entered into."

In 1300, the king issued the usual writs to the prelates, peers, &c., of Ireland, notifying that he required a subsidy to suppress the rebellion of the Scotch, and requesting them to confide in what his Justiciary should explain to them upon the subject. That official thereupon summoned a general Parliament at Dublin, and there required the prelates and peers to attend in their proper persons, and the commons of counties by two, three, or four, for this

(*a*) Betham on Feudal Dignities, p. 258.

purpose elected, with full powers to act for all ; and likewise the commons of cities and boroughs by two or three (meaning by the commons, all who enjoyed the privileges and bore the charges of the town). But the Justiciary determined, as the record states, first to address the several cities and boroughs on the business of the subsidy, and for this purpose went in the earliest instance to Drogheda, then to Ross, Waterford, and the other cities and towns of the kingdom, the names of all which are entered on the roll, with the different sums granted as subsidy in his journey. The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commons of Drogheda, at each side of the river, assessed themselves in 260 marks, 200 of which was to be levied on the town at the Louth, and 60 on that at the Meath side(*a*). In 1301, the Bailiffs and good men of Drogheda were required to supply one vessel towards the transports to be collected at Dublin for the service of the Scottish war. On the 24th of June, 1305, King Edward the First, on inspection of the aforesaid charters of 1229 and 1253, confirmed same by charter dated at Lewes. In this patent, the words of incorporation are for the first time used ; it is granted to the burgesses and their successors. Witnesses the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Coventry and Litchfield, and others : and this was itself inspected and confirmed by Edward the Second, on the 11th July,

(*a*) Roll 28 Edw. I. in Offic. Ch. Rem. Hib.

1316, by charter, witnessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Exeter, Ademar de Valentia Earl of Pembroke, Humphrey de Bohun Earl of Hereford and Essex, Hugh le Despenser, senior, and others. On the 7th of February, 1317, the same monarch confirmed the charter of 1247, to the Meath portion; and further, after reciting the power theretofore given to the burgesses, of improving on the banks of the Boyne, the King granted to them all his void places in said borough, to build upon, or otherwise to make their advantage thereof, "so that such buildings, or improvements, are not to the prejudice of any existing rights." It likewise allowed another weekly market on Saturday, "unless same were an injury to neighbouring markets on that day." "And also that in cases of pleas within said borough, the trial should be not by strangers, but by fellow-burgesses, save in cases affecting the Crown or the liberties." Witnesses the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Winchester, Humphrey de Bohun, Hugh le Despenser, senior, and others.

Three charters, dated at York on the 8th of June, 1319, are preserved of record. By one the King directs, that the Mayor and Burgesses of Drogheda at the Louth side, should for their good services be protected by the Lord Justice, Roger de Mortimer, from molestation in the exercise of their liberties and free customs; the second aids them in the holding of a hundred court; and the third is a murage charter as before mentioned. In the same

year, and subsequently, royal mandates were directed to the Justiciary of Ireland, to protect the Mayor and Burgesses of Drogheda, at the Louth side, in the full enjoyment of their liberties. In 1327, the staple of merchandize in Ireland was fixed here and at Dublin and Cork exclusively, and so confirmed, with regulations, in 1353(a), a selection which distinctly evinces the commercial importance then attributed to this locality, although it was attended with the jealousies and conflicts between the two boroughs at each side of the river, of which records are yet preserved in the Tower of London. In 1330, a Parliament was by royal order convened to obtain an aid from the people against Robert Bruce, on which occasion the Lord Justice summoned two out of every city or corporate town, which number was uniformly observed afterwards in borough representation. The account of the Mayor of Drogheda to the Exchequer for this year, is preserved in a pipe roll in Bermingham Tower. On the 6th of May, 1331, King Edward the Third confirmed, on *insperimus*, the charters of 1229, 1253, and 11th July, 1316, to Drogheda, at Louth side. This charter further privileged the burgesses from being put upon assizes, juries, or inquests, by reason of contracts, trespasses or lands without the borough, and prohibited strangers being put on such with them, for trespasses, contracts, or lands within the borough.

(a) Rolls of Parliament *ad ann.*

It prescribed that they should not be convicted of pleas, contracts, or felonies by strangers, but only by the co-burgesses, unless in matters affecting the Crown or commonalty; that they should not be prejudiced by departures in pleading, nor be made Sheriffs, Coroners, or other ministers of the King, without the borough, against their will; that no bailiff or minister of the Crown should exact any things or merchandize from those carrying on commerce in or to the town, without the consent of the owners, unless in aid of the Crown, or the Royal Castles; that they should have the assize of bread and beer, and the custody and assay of measures and weights, with power to punish transgressors therein, all profits of such assize and assay to belong to the burgesses and their successors, in aid of the farm of the town; the Mayor and bailiffs, however, to be fined and amerced if proved to have neglected their duty. Witnesses the Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor; the Bishop of Norwich, Treasurer; John de Eltham Earl of Cornwall, the King's brother; and others. On the same day, the King confirmed on *inspeximus*, the charter of the 7th of February, 1317, to Drogheda at the Meath side, with further privileges similar to those granted to the borough at the Louth side. It also granted, that merchant strangers should not stay more than forty days to sell their goods; and that no alien-born merchant should export victuals without the license of the burgesses. Witnesses the same as in the last

charter. A patent recorded as of 1341(a) states, that Walter de Lacy, late Palatine of Meath, had confirmed, according to his estate, their lands and liberties to the burgesses of the Corporation ; who, in the same year, had a royal aid towards the kaiage of their town.

In 1357, the Mayor, seneschal, and bailiffs of this town were ordered to make proclamation, that none but merchants should take shipping thence ; and in 1360, a Great Council of the Prelates, Magnates, and Peers of Ireland having been convened to sit at Dublin, Drogheda appears, for the first time, required to send representatives thereto, being directed by royal mandate, to send two of the discreeter citizens to attend same. It may be remarked, that this privilege of legislative representation, was, at that time, only extended to eight other Irish cities and towns, viz., Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Ross, Clonmel, and Wexford. On the 22nd of March, 1362, the king granted to this town, at the Louth side, very extensive rights of tolls and customs, to enure for twenty years : provided always, that said customs, and all toll on articles coming into the town for sale, should be expended in repairing the towers, quay, and bridge, and not otherwise, and be so duly accounted for. Witness, Lionel Earl of Ulster. By charter, dated 12th February, 1365, the king confirmed that of 1331, to the bur-

(a) Rot. Pat. 14 Edw. III. in Tur. Lond.

gesses of Drogheda on Louth side, and thereby granted certain privileges relative to the elections and swearing in of the Mayor, the return of writs and attachments by the burgesses within the borough, except the four usually excepted, the cognizance of all pleas of tenures, contracts, and trespasses, by the Mayor and bailiffs within the borough, as largely as the same had been theretofore granted to Dublin. Further, upon the petition of the burgesses, stating their privilege, that no merchant stranger should sell his wares there by retail, against which some merchant strangers, under pretext of the then late Statute of ordinance of the staple, had come to Drogheda, and sold by retail, as freely as the merchants of the borough, the charter granted, that all merchant strangers, buying and selling in the town under said Statute, should contribute to the talliages and burdens for its support. Witnesses, the Bishops of Ely and Worcester, and others.—On the 25th of March, 1370, King Edward confirmed, on *inspeximus*, the previous charter of the customs given to the Corporation at the Louth side; and, while he renewed the privilege of taking same for twenty other years, he extended the benefits to the seneschal, bailiff, and townsmen of the Meath side, with similar directions as to appropriating and accounting therefor. In the following year, the Mayor, seneschal, and bailiffs, of this town, were directed to summon William Roche, William Symcock, Richard Mile, Nicholas Fitz Hugh, Thomas Ashe, and John Ashwell, to a Great Coun-

cil, with letters of protection to them during their coming, their sojourn, and their return(*a*). The last named individual, it may be observed, was afterwards constituted Mayor of the staple, by Robert de Vere, Marquess of Dublin, when that favourite received the extraordinary grant of Ireland from his royal master. In the same year, the seneschal and bailiffs of Drogheda at the Meath side, were, on account of their labour and expense, incurred in repairing the bridge at their side of the river, released and discharged from an amerciament of forty shillings, for which they were indebted to the Crown(*b*).

A very remarkable parliamentary summons was, in this year (1374), directed, amongst other officials of counties and boroughs, to the Sheriff of Louth, Mayor of Drogheda, &c., commanding them to return representatives to meet the king in his Parliament in England; whereupon, the magnates and commonalty of Louth, being assembled by virtue of such writ, with one voice of common consent, alleged that, according to the rights, privileges, liberties, laws, and customs, of the land of Ireland, used since the conquest of the same, and before, they were not obliged to choose or send any person from the same land, to the Parliament or Councils to be held in England, as said writ required; nevertheless, out of reverence to the king, and on account of the pressing necessity, but saving their said rights, privileges,

(*a*) Rot. in Canc. Hib.

(*b*) Id.

&c., they chose Roger Gernon, and Richard de Verdon, to advise on the safety, defence, and good government of the king's realm of Ireland, with a special exception, nevertheless, of any delegation of authority to the said Gernon and Verdon, for granting any other burdens or subsidies to be imposed upon them for the present, on account of the poverty of the said community, and the great and daily expenses they were at, in finding men at arms for the defence of the marches of their county, against the more potent Irish enemies and rebels of the King of England; and the Sheriff of Louth made his return accordingly^(a). Under similar circumstances and instructions, Drogheda sent as its representatives, William White and Nicholas Starkey. Nicholas Fitz Hugh was, at this time, Mayor of the staple, with power, in right of his office, to settle complaints relative thereto, and keep the seal of office, with two constables to execute his warrants under seal. Notwithstanding this prohibition, however, of parliamentary taxation at Westminster, it does appear on the rolls, that the Corporation were then required to levy an aid for the support of government. In the following year, the seneschal and bailiffs at the Meath side, had a remission of their Crown debts, by reason of their expenditure in repairing the bridge of the borough^(b). In this latter year (1375), by charter of 27th of June, a Mayor and constable of

(a) Memoranda Rolls, in Turr. Lond.

(b) Rot. Claus. 48 Edw. III. in Canc. Hib.

the staple were constituted here, as in four other towns of Ireland ordained for that purpose, Nicholas Fitz Hugh being appointed the first Mayor, and Walter Lynford and John White his constables.

Merchants of the staple, it may be remarked, were the first and most ancient association for exporting the staple wares of the kingdom, viz., wool skins, lead, and tin, in their rough state, for manufacture. It is said to have originated in England in 1248, but did not obtain a legal corporate character until the time of Edward the Second, at the close of whose reign, as before mentioned, the staple in Ireland was fixed here, and at Dublin and Cork, exclusively. In 1353, Edward the Third appointed, for the staple of wool, Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Exeter, Winchester, Bristol, Lincoln, York, Norwich, Newcastle, and Hull, for England; and Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and Drogheda, for Ireland. In the twenty-seventh year of the same king's reign, was enacted the Statute of the staple, whereby it was commanded, that all staple wares for exportation should be first brought to some of these places exclusively, where the custom should be paid, and exported by merchant strangers only, a privilege, which was afterwards extended to denizens. In these staple towns, courts of law merchant were established, for determining the mercantile transactions and engagements that grew out of the trade so induced, as is still recognized in the forms of pleadings on bills of exchange, &c. At this day, these officials

of the staple exist only in name, although they maintain the form of a corporation in the succession of their annual officers, according to the direction of their charters.

In 1377, the Mayor, seneschal, and bailiffs, of Drogheda, were commanded to cause two of the more worthy of their townsmen, to be elected as their representatives in a Parliament to be held at Castledermot. Similar summonses occur in 1380 and 1381. The grants of the customs of 1361 and 1370, were further confirmed by charter of the 20th July, 1380 (witness, Edmund de Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster), which was itself renewed on *in speximus*, in favour of the borough at the Louth side, for twelve years, by another of 24th of October, 1385. Witness, Philip de Courtney, the King's Lieutenant. About the same time, Walter Fleming, one of the bailiffs of the town, and the seneschal on the Meath side, had respectively royal licenses to appoint their deputies. The practice of such deputations is recognized in the Rolls of subsequent years, and the superior authorities were, on such occasions, directed to admit the substitutes.—By charter of 9th April, 1392, that of 1363 was inspected and confirmed in favour of the burgesses at the Louth side, as was that of 1331 for those of the Meath side, by charter of 16th June, 1394. Witnesses, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Bishops of London, Winchester, and Salisbury, Thomas Duke of Gloucester, Roger de Mortimer,

Earl of March, and others. In 1402, the king granted to the Mayor, seneschal, and commons of Drogheda, the full liberty of passing and repassing through the Lough of Carlingford, for the purpose of buying fuel there, and carrying it thence to this town. By charter of 20th January, 1403, on inspeximus of letters patent of the 8th of April, 1387, the license for exporting wares to England was confirmed to the Corporation at the Meath side, and on the 8th of March following, the king, on the supplication of the same body, stating, that King Edward the Third had, by letters patent, granted to them 32A.; called Arundel's land, near the town, and 18s. chief rent (which belonged to Gilbert Thedrick, and had come to the Crown by escheat), to hold for ever, at the annual rent of 50s., and that afterwards, Richard the Second, by letters patent(*a*) of 17th January, 1395, had given a remission of said rent for ten years, King Henry the Fourth thereupon, considering the losses of the Corporation by enemies and rebels, confirmed the premises to them to hold for ever, as parcels of said town, free of all rent(*b*). They were, however, afterwards, in 1415, sued for the arrears thereof, but relieved on pleading the royal release(*c*), after which, the king confirmed the election of a Mayor and constables of the staple.

In 1406, the Mayor of the Louth side of the

(*a*) Rot. Pat. 18 Ric. II. in Tur. Lond.

(*b*) Rot. Pat. in Canc. Hib. 4 Henry IV.

(*c*) Vice Treasurer's Office.

town had license to go into England, on appointing two burgesses to fulfil the duties of his office during his absence; while one of his bailiffs, Nicholas White, had a similar liberty, leaving John D'Alton his deputy. [This Nicholas White was a very extensive and general merchant of that day, and the many licenses on record for his exportings to various parts of Europe, bear a flattering testimony to the existing commerce of this town. His said deputy, John D'Alton, was the descendant of a member of the Rathconrath line, who had, in the time of Edward the Third, established himself in the county Louth, where, in 1347, John D'Alton was found seised of certain townlands, held under the manor of Derver, by grant from Richard de Exeter. The John of the present notice, was also an extensive merchant, resident at Mornington, and licenses for his shipments, to supply the Abbey of Furnes and other places, and to export, as well from the river Boyne, as from the waters of Elvyn, now Delvin and Nanny, are of record]. In 1404, a grant of customs and tolls passed to the Corporation of Drogheda at the Louth side, for murage, paviage, and pontage, a schedule thereof was set out, and the Corporation was permitted to account therefor before two burgesses, and discharged from rendering any account therefor to the Crown, in the Exchequer, or elsewhere(*a*); the right of tolls seemed, in this case, to contemplate perpetuity.

(*a*) Rot. Pat. in Canc. Hib. 5 Henry IV.

These Corporations continued distinct to the time of Henry the Fourth, that on the Louth side having its Mayor, and this on the Meath its seneschal, while each had several bailiffs and burgesses. During this interval the principal market had been at the Meath side, near the Mill-mount, and there vessels preferred to anchor, by reason of their being exempt at that side from the pontage which was levied at the north quay; the inhabitants of the former had, consequently, the monopoly of the merchandize imported, on the sale of which at the other, they insisted upon increased prices, and hence arose jealousies, animosities, and contentions, that put the inhabitants of both places in arms against each other. In their contests blood was often shed and many lives lost, especially upon one occasion, when the bridge became the scene of a sanguinary engagement between the conflicting parties. At length Father Philip Bennet, a monk of the Dominican Friary, having invited the dissentients to hear his sermon in the collegiate church of St. Peter, assumed as his text the words of the 133rd psalm, "behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," then appealing to the congregation, "will ye be united to the body of Christ," one of them (William Symcock), exclaimed as in the name of all, "we will," and it was thereupon agreed, as the sincerest and most effective bond of peace, to transmit their joint supplicatory wishes to the king, for his royal sanction to consolidate the two bodies. This

their petition was signed by Nicholas Fleming, Archbishop of Armagh, and transmitted to London by Robert Ball, who brought back the charter that is dated the 1st of November, 1412, whereby, after reciting the above importations and dissensions, the king, with the common consent of the burgesses and commonalties of both boroughs, granted that the town and the suburbs in both counties should constitute one county, distinct from those of Meath and Louth, to be called the county of Drogheda, to be held of the Crown at the entire fee farm rent of 100 marks (the aggregate of the respective rents of each theretofore), and to be governed by one Mayor and two Sheriffs only, eligible by the burgesses and commonalty of the town, and extinguishing totally with their assent the names and states of the seneschal and bailiffs. The Mayor was created the King's Escheator, and, with the sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty, empowered to make by-laws; and provisions were made for the elections and swearing of all such officers. This charter also granted a county court, a common gaol, waifs, estrays, goods of felons and fugitives, escapes and forfeitures, in aid of sustaining the farm aforesaid; liberty to receive the tolls and customs in common, and for the mutual benefit of the burgesses and commonalty, as of one franchise; directed that none should plead or be impleaded before the king's Justices out of the town, but before the Mayor and Sheriffs; while a very general jurisdiction was then given to the said Mayor and Sheriffs, within the

limits, in cases of trespass, covenants, contracts, and debts, assizes of novel disseisin, and mort d'ancestor of lands and tenements; and to the Mayor in cases of oppressions, extortions, neglects, or injuries committed by the Sheriffs; and to the Mayor, Sheriffs, and co-burgesses in complaints touching labourers and artificers; and it was directed, that the burgesses and commonalty should have all fines, issues, forfeitures, and amerciaments for supporting and repairing the bridges of the town, and other burdens daily arising, and forfeitures of victuals, viz.: bread, wine, ale, and other things not pertaining to merchandize. This charter also provided, that neither by the change of the names of seneschal and bailiffs, nor otherwise, should any of the former franchises of the burgesses or commonalty, or the tenants or residents of the town and suburbs, be denied or abridged, but that the Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty should use and enjoy all the franchises, liberties, privileges and immunities, quittances, advantages, and free customs, article by article, and word for word, as the Mayor, Seneschal, Burgesses and Commonalty, had before used and enjoyed them. The day after receiving this incorporation, the Primate gave his solemn blessing to the united people; and the aforesaid William Symcock, who had vouched the common desire for coalition, was, by the voice of all, elected the first Mayor. A mock ceremony, commemorative of this joyful occurrence, used, until a recent date, to be annually enacted. [The above

William Symcock had been, as before mentioned, one of those selected individuals, whom the Mayor of Drogheda was, in 1371, directed to summon to attend a Parliament as a representative of that borough, and a record is preserved which shows, that having voted the assessment of a subsidy out of that town, in this Parliament, and said subsidy not having been duly paid in, he was made personally liable to a certain extent. He was an eminent merchant, and various licenses are on record, sanctioning his exportation of corn and flour to Tenby, to Bourdeaux, and to Gascony; and of wine and beer to Ulster and the Scottish isles. He was Seneschal of Drogheda for several years prior to the above period, in which capacity he was, in 1387, ordered to purvey lodgings and entertainment for John Bishop of Sodor, and to transport provisions wherever the Bishop might require, provided they were not sent to an enemy's country. In 1386 he was one of those directed to oversee and prevent exportation, contrary to existing ordinances; and about the same time was entrusted with the custody of the fisheries of the Bann and Lagan, for the Crown, with an allowance and privilege of a boat for his own use; and again, with the custody of the manor of Ardcaith, during a vacancy of the see of Meath. He and his wife Agnes were recorded in "the Annals of St. Mary's, Drogheda" (as alluded to in Dr. King's MSS., but which work is no longer forthcoming), to have been great benefactors to Drogheda, and, on his appointment to the Mayoralty,

he is said "to have honourably governed the place, to the content of them all. He died on the 18th of February, 1420, greatly lamented." His daughter, another Agnes, intermarried with Alexander Taylor of Swords, who acquired in her right property in this town, which is, after the lapse of centuries, still enjoyed by his descendant Mr. Taylor, of Swords House].

In 1413, the king granted that each future Mayor of the united bodies should be exclusive Escheator within the town(*a*), and on the 12th of September, 1414, the charter of 1402 received a further royal confirmation, while by another of the 10th of November, immediately following, King Henry the Fifth yet more strongly ratified all former gifts, grants, liberties, franchises, and quittances, with a renewal of the customs and tolls. In 1417, by reason of the heavy expenses incurred by the Corporation in doing state service in the suite of Sir John Talbot, of Halomshire, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, they were released from all debts, arrears of farm rent, and amerciaments. In the following year, however, Thomas Walsh, Mayor, and Peter Mesburgh, and William English, Sheriffs of this town, were impleaded before the Barons of the Exchequer, for certain arrears of the farm rent then due by them, but in 1419, received from Henry the Fifth a more distinct and effective pardon of all escapes, contempts, and fines,

(*a*) See Rot. Claus. 1 Hen. VI. in Canc. Hib.

theretofore incurred by them. [The above Sir John Talbot was afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury, so conspicuous as a warrior in the reign of Henry VI. Having been maligned in reference to his administration of the Vice-royalty, a very spirited memorial in his defence, but a sad development of the state of Ireland at the time^(a), was drawn up and attested with such signatures as were then deemed most influential, among which appears that of the Corporation of Drogheda].

In 1424, the Mayor and Sheriffs having been about to proceed on the trial of a cause of ejectment or disseisin concerning certain tenements in the town, it being objected that they were then in the king's hands by escheat, and not subject to the Mayor's jurisdiction, it was ordered by the royal mandate, that the Mayor and Sheriffs should proceed to try the case notwithstanding, but should not proceed to judgment without consulting with the Crown. Henry the Sixth, with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, in his Parliament at Westminster, held in the fifth year of his reign (1426), approved and affirmed all gifts, &c., to the Corporation, and in 1436, they had a release of £20 *per annum*, out of their fee farm crown rent, in consequence of the great waste and destruction of the town and its trade by the king's enemies. A statute of 1436-7, recognizing the Act of Henry the Fourth

(a) See D'Alton's History of the County Dublin, p. 30, &c.

in behalf of the Mayor, Burgesses, and Commons of this town, and that none of them were to be compelled to serve in offices outside the same; discharged all residents thereof from being obliged to serve any office in Kilkenny, against their will. In 1442, the Corporation had a remission of twenty marks annually thenceforth from the fee farm of their town, in aid of the repairs of the Tholsel and bridge, as well as the walls, rendering an account annually, as therein prescribed, which indulgence was confirmed by an Act of Parliament, in 1459; while in 1447, Robert Talbot, Mayor of Drogheda; Ralph Coll and James Fitz Rory, Sheriffs of said town; William Wright and Patrick Hill, burgesses thereof, came before the Barons of the Exchequer and paid a fine to the king, because they did not observe the day assigned for their rendering an account of the issues and profits of the murage and paviage of the town aforesaid, as they were bound to do for the same. They were, however, by an Act passed in the same year at the Parliament of Trim, released therefrom. In three years afterwards, at the Parliament of Dublin, an Act passed against Alexander Shelton, Controller of the Customs in Dublin and Drogheda, for exhibiting a false acquittance upon his account in the Exchequer. In 1452, the king confirmed the appointment of the Mayor and Constables of the staple, and in 1454, in consequence of extortions

(a) Exch. Roll, 25 & 26 Hen. VI.

used in this town on the affirmance of complaints, for copies of which respectively the recorders and clerks thereof exacted two shillings, it was enacted by Statute 33 Hen. VI. c. 2, that the said recorders or clerks should have but two pence for the copy of each complaint, under pain of standing outlawed as of trespass, and out of the protection of the king, and never to occupy the said offices again. Another Act of the same Session provided, that the Mayors should not be knights or esquires, but merchants; and that the Mayor for any one year, should not be again elected to that office for three years ensuing; this restriction was, however, in the following year, repealed by Statute 34 Henry VI. c. 19, "in consideration how often knights and esquires have been Mayors, and done great honor to same."

In Trinity Term, 1458, the King's Attorney-General informed the Court, that "whereas the king, who now is, by his letters patent, made at Westminster, on the 18th of November, in the 21st year of his reign, granted to the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Commons of Drogheda, twenty marks, to be received yearly out of the fee-farm of said town, for repair and support of the walls of same, to hold to said Mayor and Commons, and their successors, &c.; notwithstanding which the king's attorney says, that the twenty marks of the said fee farm, for the 34th year of the now king's reign, at Drogheda, in the said year, to the hands of Nicholas Hardman and William Davy, then Sheriffs of said town, came, and they diverted them

to their own use, and not to walling said town, in contempt of the said lord the king," &c. These Sheriffs were, thereupon, afterwards fined, and so otherwise severely prosecuted, that they were compelled to seek exoneration of the penalty, and pardon of the offence, by an Act of Parliament specially passed for the purpose(*a*). In a Parliament of 1459, a grant of twenty marks yearly was confirmed to the Mayor, &c., of Drogheda, in consideration of the losses sustained from the French of Brittany and the Scots, and in consideration of the plague that had lately raged in the town; same to be applied in support of their bridges, walls, tholsel, &c.(*b*); and by another unprinted Act of 1463, customs were confirmed to Trim, Naas, Athboy, Kenlis, and Fore, for murage, paviage, and pontage, provided same were not prejudicial to Dublin, Drogheda, or Ardee. In an Act of Resumption, passed in 1464, whereby all patents of castles, seigniories, manors, tenements, &c., granted by King Edward or his father, or Henry late King of England, from the first year of his reign, were recalled, there was a special exception in favour of the Corporation of Drogheda. And so was it in a previous resumption of 1459, and in subsequent of 1465 and 1468(*c*). In the latter session, indeed, a distinct Act was passed, confirming all their liberties. In 1485, however, another Act of Resumption was passed, by which all charters

(*a*) See Exch. Roll, 25 & 26 Hen. VI.

(*b*) Unedited Statutes.

(*c*) Id.

granting customs, between the last year of Edward the First and this the first of Henry the Seventh, were declared void, with a saving for Waterford only.

By Statute of 8 Edw. IV. c. 58, it was conceded, that a patent should pass from the King, granting that the Mayor of this town for the time being might wear a sword as the Mayor of London did, with an annual pension of £20 out of the fee farm of the town, to maintain his dignity in regard of the services of the Corporation against O'Reilly, and in the wars under the Earl of Worcester, deputy of George Duke of Clarence. A patent of the 12th of July, 1469, in the same year, issued accordingly to that effect, and was confirmed by a subsequent charter of 19th of February, 1470. Another Statute, of the reign of the same monarch, confirmed to the Corporation in 1469 all the patents granted by his predecessors, while an unprinted Act of Resumption of 1480, although it resumes all castles, manors, franchises, &c., granted by King Edward, by his father, or by Henry the Sixth, contains a special saving of the rights of the Corporation of Drogheda; and in another unprinted Act of 1483, establishing a market at Maynooth and free warren on its manor, a similar saving is inserted. By an Act of 1487, it was provided, that the lands of Barnatty, in the shire of Louth, should thenceforward be reputed and taken as part and parcel of the franchises of Drogheda, and utterly discharged of the said shire

of Louth, and that dwellers, tenants, and land-occupiers of the said lands of Barnatty, and residentiaries of the same, should have the liberties, freedoms, and franchises of Drogheda, and use and enjoy them as the inhabitants of Manimore, being of and within the franchise of the town, had used and enjoyed same as parcel of the same lands; and these lands are still reputed as part of the county of the town. On the 9th of July, 1512, an additional confirmation charter was granted to this body on *inspeximus* of its former muniments; and on the 23rd of February, 1529, King Henry granted the Mill mote, *alias* the Windmill mote, to the Corporation for ever(a).

Another charter, enrolled in 1539, provided that the Mayor and Recorder should be guardians of the peace for the King within the town and franchises by land, sea, and fresh water; and should also be justices of the peace, with power to hold inquisitions of felonies and other crimes, and to have the assize of weights and measures. This instrument also prescribed, that neither the King's Coroner, Escheator, or Sheriff, should have jurisdiction in the town; that the Corporation might build a prison; that the Mayor and Recorder should be justices of gaol delivery within the town, with power to erect a gallows, and execute judgment on felons; and lastly, it confirmed all former grants and dona-

(a) Vice-Treasurer's Office.

tions. About this time, Sir Christopher St. Lawrence, the seventeenth Lord of Howth, exhibited a complaint against the Mayor and Commons of Drogheda, concerning forty shillings rent payable out of the Tholsel of that town, setting forth that he and his ancestors, time out of mind, had been seised and possessed thereof, which appeared by divers decrees made between the said parties; whereupon the Lord Deputy and Council referred the examination of the matter to Chief Baron Finglas and Thomas Howth, Second Justice of the King's Bench, who, after hearing and proving the evidence and title of each party, reported that the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Commons shewed no evidence to exclude the Lord of Howth from the said rent; and that he ought to have and enjoy the same according to the several decrees thereof made against the said Mayor, Sheriffs, and Commons. Whereupon the Lord Deputy and Council, willing true and indifferent justice to be ministered to all the King's subjects, adjudged the same with the arrears to him and his heirs, according to the said decrees, unto the time that the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Commons should produce good evidence to bar and exclude his lordship and his heirs from the said rent, and the said evidence to be then approved by the Deputy and Council: the Corporation to perform, upon pain of £100 forfeiture to the King, the decree made by Hugh Archbishop of Dublin, between his Lordship and the said Corporation for the right and

title to the said rent of forty shillings; and that the Corporation should thenceforth suffer his Lordship to enjoy the said rent without let or disturbance. By a charter dated 6th of April, 1557, the religious houses of St. Mary de Urso and St. Lawrence, and those of the Augustinians and Carmelites, were granted to this Corporation in fee farm for ever. It was also provided, that the burgesses resident in Drogheda should not be compelled to appear in any of the King's Courts elsewhere, in suits arising in Drogheda, nor be put on juries out of the town; but that the burgesses should answer for lands held by them without the franchises in the King's Courts in Dublin, or elsewhere: a general confirmation of privileges was added, and the Mayor, &c., agreed that the King's Justices might hold the assizes in the Tholsel of Drogheda, or elsewhere within the town; and that he would find accommodations and food for the said Justices, and their horses, during the assizes. In Michaelmas, 1570, the Mayor and Sheriffs of this town took their oaths of office in the Tholsel before Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, who was himself on this occasion admitted a freeman and Alderman of the Corporation.

Spenser, in his "View of the State of Ireland," where he inculcates the necessity of having garrisons stationed throughout that country, especially in Waterford and Cork, because "these two cities above all the rest, do offer an in-gate to the Spaniard most fitly; but yet because they shall not take ex-

ceptions to this, that they are charged above all the rest, I will also lay a charge upon the others likewise, for indeed it is no reason that the corporate towns, enjoying great franchises and privileges from her Majesty, and living thereby not only safe, but drawing to them the wealth of all the land, should live so free as not to be partakers of the burden of this garrison; therefore, I will charge them thus rateably:" and he then enumerates the forces to be respectively maintained out of the corporate funds, twenty-five in Drogheda, ten in Dundalk, ten in Ardee, &c. Drogheda having subsequently submitted to the Royal pleasure as to the customs and poundage, his Majesty King James the First, on the 3rd of March, 1608, ordered the Lord Deputy to renew its charter; accordingly, letters patent bearing date on the 18th of December, 1609, granted to the Corporation a guild of merchants of the staple, consisting of a Mayor, two constables, and such a number of merchants of the town and county as should seem expedient, to be chosen by the Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commons of the town, with power to the persons so chosen, to make by-laws, and a prohibition against any merchant but those of the staple buying or selling any merchandize of the staple within the county, on pain of forfeiture; and also against shipping any such goods unless purchased from a merchant of the staple within the town. It also directed, that none should buy or sell by retail, or private bargain, any merchandize within

the franchises, except merchants of the town and county; and further granted to the Corporation all wrecks of the sea happening within the port, and all the water of the Boyne, and the fishery and fisheries thereof, within and on each side of the same water, from the bounds of the franchises of the town on the west, to the deep sea beyond Maiden Tower at the east; and that all freemen of the town should be exempt from customs or poundage within the town and franchises. It also sanctioned the subdivision of the several guilds according to trades, each to have a hall, to choose a master and two wardens, to make by-laws, all to be governed by the Mayor. It likewise recognized and assured to the Corporation and freemen exemption from toll, lastage, pontage, passage, and stallage through all the sea-ports by land and water within the towns of Ardee, Dundalk, and all the king's lordships and jurisdictions; confirmed the right of taking fines, forfeitures, duties, and customs, and applying same in repairing the bridge, quay, tower, and pavement; and authorized the holding of two fairs on the festivals of St. Barnaby and St. Luke and the five days next ensuing each, rent free, with a confirmation of all their estates and franchises as held under former charters, or by prescription.

On the 11th of March following, a Royal letter issued, whereby, after reciting that various corporations, and amongst them Drogheda, had, as directed, sent over agents to the king to receive a

final settlement of the customs due to the Crown, and had petitioned for a confirmation of their ancient liberties, and an addition of reasonable franchises, King James ordered that such corporate towns should be newly incorporated, and endowed with other reasonable liberties, special care being taken of the royal interest in the great and petty customs, and in the subsidies of tonnage and poundage. The object of this mandate was further enforced by another royal letter of the 18th of March, 1610; accordingly, after a surrender dated the 7th August, 1611, and two inquisitions of the 12th of October, 1615, finding the possessions of this Corporation, King James by charter of the 14th of July, 1618, granted to the Mayor, &c., of Drogheda, 199 houses and messuages; twenty-two orchards; twelve gardens; and thirty-four other closes, the acreable contents of which latter premises are not stated; and seventy other holdings, the contents of which are specified, and amount to 334 acres; also three messuages; three gardens; and sixty-two acres of land in the town and fields of Daviestown, near Tallonstown, commonly called the Churchland, in the county of Louth; and three messuages, three gardens, and sixty-two acres in Heighlin, in that county; and two messuages in the town and franchises of Dundalk, to hold for ever at the yearly rent of 5s. "And because they and their predecessors had used to maintain with the profits and rents of the premises certain men serving in divine

worship in the church of St. Peter within the town," the king willed, and they covenanted with him, to pay annually for ever, out of the premises, to six singing men (beside the organist and parish clerk), £6 each, and to three boys choristers, four marks each, and also to repair the manse in or near the churchyard of St. Peter, for the convenient habitation of said singers and choristers. This charter likewise authorized a further subdivision of guilds, with halls of assembly, and similar powers as in former charters, and granted further exemption from tolls, two yearly fairs, and a confirmation of all former possessions. In 1615, on inquisition taken, the Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commons, were found seised in fee of three messuages, three gardens, and 62A. in Daviestown near Tallonstown, called the church lands in the county of Louth; then in the occupation of the lord of Louth; three messuages and 62A. in the Heighlin, in said county; two messuages, and two gardens, in the town and franchises of Dundalk; one messuage in Heynstown; 3A. in Reynoldstown; three messuages, three gardens, and 60A., in Lisranymore; all in said county; and also of 200 houses, with their gardens; twenty-two orchards; and several other premises in this town, particularly specified. In 1617, the Corporation having surrendered their chauntry, and other estates, to the Crown, King James confirmed them in mortmain, by re-grant to the body, to be holden of the Castle of Dublin, with the proviso, " And our further pleasure is, that

seeing the said lands were first given for the maintenance and entertainment of singing men and choristers, there be a competent allowance, or yearly wages, given out of the said lands, as our Lord Deputy and the Primate of Armagh shall think meet, for six men and three boys, to make a choir in the church of St. Peter's, Drogheda, and the house, in the churchyard there, be re-edified for their more convenient habitation." There was a strict inquiry of office taken, at the same time, of said chauntry, and other estates. It may be here mentioned, that in 1627, one of the articles of the graces promulgated by King Charles for Ireland, through his Deputy Lord Falkland, provided that all the Corporations, as well the old as the new, should be assessed towards all general county charges, and that all impropriations and temporal lands of ecclesiastical persons shall bear equal contributions in public charges, in the county and in the towns.

In 1641, the merchants, burgesses, and inhabitants of this Corporation, petitioned Parliament on the subject of "certain pressures and grievances" affecting them, which being referred to a committee, they reported, "that some course should be taken for redress thereof, and that their ancient charters, immunities, and privileges, should be restored to them by Act of Parliament." In three years afterwards, however, another petition was preferred, of a different character, praying that the Mayor and Aldermen should appear and produce their charter,

and show cause wherefore they demand the customs mentioned in said petition; and this was likewise referred to a Committee, and the Mayor and Aldermen made answer thereto, but nothing further was done on head of it. In the same year, it was ordered by the House of Commons, that proceedings of *quo warranto*, which had issued against this town, whereby it was required, amongst other things, that they should show by what warrant they sent burgesses to Parliament, should not be proceeded with until further order, the said Corporation being a very ancient Corporation.

On the 5th of October, 1649, was held the first assembly after the storming by Cromwell, when Messrs. Nicholas Simpson, John Martin, Bartholomew Drew, William Thompson, and John Medcalfe, were sworn aldermen, and Captain Francis Graham, Jonas Elwood, Shakerly Drew, Oliver Parry, Roger Rawlinson, James Thomas, John Dowdal, Richard Hewson, Nicholas Phelps, Richard Power, Thomas Dixon, Richard Wilson, Gabriel Meade, William Vaughan, George Talbot, James Devoe, and John Stokes, were all sworn free burgesses, each paying 13s. 4d., and John Fallrough was admitted a free burgess, paying a fine of forty shillings. A vote of Assembly was passed in 1656, that no Papist should be admitted free of this Corporation; while in 1657 it was resolved, that all Protestants, who had faithfully adhered to the interest of the Commonwealth, and been theretofore admitted and sworn free-

men, though not then resident within the liberties of said town, should be continued in their ancient freedoms, custom free, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. It was likewise voted in this latter year, "that this Corporation do treat with that of Dundalk, for the establishment of an Escheator's Court, whereby the Corporation lands in Meath and Louth may be better secured." In 1658, a solemn perambulation of the franchises took place, pursuant to commission. About this time, and on previous occasions, traces of a claim by the Corporation to present to the rectory of St. Fintan of Dromin, in the county Louth, appear upon their books.

At the Assembly of 9th July, 1659, James Chalonier Taylor was committed by his worship the Mayor, with their consent, for publishing the following English words in open assembly, viz.: "That the now Mayor was sworn in the late Protector's time, and that he, the said James, did not know by what commission the said James did now act as Mayor of this town, the government being altered from a single person to a Parliament;" which words were by him maliciously used, in contempt of the said Mayor and Corporation, and tending to the subversion of the ancient rights and privileges thereof, and contrary to an Act of Parliament lately published, for the continuance and confirmation thereof; for which notorious offence the said James was fined in the sum of five pounds sterling and committed as

aforesaid. It was likewise then ordered, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs, should consider of the best way to have the next fair proclaimed in this town and the neighbouring towns, and that for the first fair all persons resorting or coming to the same, with any cattle, or other goods, or wares, should be custom free. In 1660, the Assembly directed the uniting of St. John's and St. Stephen's poor-houses, for the more convenient support of the poor belonging to the same. In 1661, there was a proclamation issued for all Corporations to renew their charters, but Drogheda does not appear to have, in any manner, acted upon this order. In this latter year, the Irish House of Lords humbly thanked his Majesty, for his prudent care in securing cities and corporate towns in the hands of Protestants, and supplicated that same should be continued in the hands only of such as are in communion with the Church of England, and give testimony of their loyalty and fidelity to his Majesty, provided such regulation should not operate to the exclusion of any Protestant foreigners, who might be willing to inhabit in any of said cities or towns corporate, they taking the oath of allegiance and supremacy.

In 1662, the Assembly entered into a resolution, that a Common Council of twenty-four, two from each fraternity, should in future, at General Assembly, represent their commons, and, that none should be chosen thereon, except persons inhabiting within the Corporation. In 1663, the Mayor was directed

by the Assembly, to take measures for the erection of a crane to draw up the goods which are brought hither; while, by an entry in "the White Parchment Book," it appears, that a new corporate seal was cast in this year. In 1664, the Corporation demised "the Justice Park," and two parks belonging to St. Mary's chauntry lands, to Thomas Dixon, for sixty-one years. In 1665, the Assembly took into consideration the many station days which, by ancient custom, were observed by the Corporation, and though, as they expressed, they thought not fit to break any of the ancient laudable customs of this town, yet, in consideration of the poorness of the common stock, and it not being adequate for giving treatments to the officers, soldiers, and other inhabitants of the town, at the Tholsel, as usual, it was therefore ordered, that for the future, such treatments should be only given on two station days in the year, viz., on the day of his Sacred Majesty's glorious birth, and his return into his kingdom, being the 29th of May, and 23rd of October, yearly.

In 1668, rules for the government of the Body were prescribed by the Earl of Ossory, then Lord Deputy. These, after reciting the power given therefor by the Act of Explanation, directed the names of the elect to be submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, and that the officers should take the oaths of supremacy and allegiance; in consequence of which, a large body of the inhabitants memorialled the Lord Lieutenant, setting forth their services during the

rebellion of 1641, and that the Act of Settlement had (as before mentioned) expressly provided for their being restored to their former estates, freedoms, and immunities therein, and they therefore prayed to be relieved from the oaths of supremacy, and the direction for receiving the sacrament; whereupon the Lord Deputy in Council ordered, that the memorialists, to wit, George Peppard, Ignatius Peppard, Thomas Peppard, Francis Worrall, Nicholas Peppard, Bartholomew Hamlin, Andrew Hamlin, John Moore, Luke Cowley, Oliver Bird, Nicholas Cowley, John Ley, Roger Bealing, John Tyrrell, Nicholas Bath, Alexander Plunkett, Thomas Delahoyde, Phillip Wall, Richard Tyrrell, John Bath, John Burnell, Peter Russel, Jasper Delahoyde, and such other inhabitants and proprietors of said town, as constantly adhered to the royal authority, until its withdrawal from Ireland in 1647, and "who did not," according to the before mentioned provision, "adhere to the Papal clergy, or other the Irish rebels, in opposition to the royal authority," and the heirs or widows of such of them as were dead, should and might have and enjoy all their, and every of their freedoms and immunities within said town, according to the tenor of the Act of Settlement, yet so that any of them, while he continued Papist, might not be Mayor, Alderman, or Sheriff, or of the Common Council of said town.

In 1669, John Hodson, clerk, vicar of St. Peter's church, obtained a fee farm grant of three messuages,

three gardens, and sixty-two acres in Daviestown; three gardens and sixty acres in Lisranymore; certain lands in Plaridon and Lisranyless; a messuage, garden, and seven acres in Heynstown; three acres in Reynoldstown; two messuages and two gardens in Dundalk; a house, a garden, housestead, and sundry other messuages and parcels in Dundalk; four acres in Reynoldstown; eleven in Laggah; and 300 acres about Carlingford. This grant is entered in the White Parchment Book, as having been made by the Corporation to said Doctor Hodson, and his successors, for ever. It is stated to have originated in a threatened litigation with this Body, for the chauntry lands, and does not appear to have been acted on, at least to the full extent, as most of the lands named have been ever since the subject of demise by the Corporation, or, at least, the claim was abandoned by successive vicars. In this same year, the Corporation also leased to Richard Tyrrell, a maze of ground and three parks, "parcel of the lands of Our Lady's second chauntry in St. Peter's church," for a term of sixty-one years, and to Alderman John Towers, a house, garden, and orchard, part of the reputed lands belonging to the chauntry of St. Catherine, in this church, for a like term. In 1671, the Assembly ordered, that if any person, elected for the future to serve the office of Sheriff in this Corporation, will take corporate oath, that he is not worth £100, he shall not be compelled to serve in said office. On the same day, the furze on

St. John's hill, belonging to the poor-house of St. John's, were set to Alderman Towers for twenty-one years, at the annual rent of 40s., and a fine of £5. In this year also, at the General Assembly held on the 13th of October, it was ordered, "that, whereas the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the city of Dublin, had certified, under their common seal, unto this Corporation, the ancient concordatum between that city and this town, the same be recorded in the Parchment Book, and that this town do certify unto the said city, their readiness to observe the same in like manner." On this day the gate customs were let for a year to Alderman Forde, at £4 5s., and the water customs at £55.

In 1672, new rules, orders, and directions were prescribed, by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, for the regulation of this and other Corporations, and the elections of its magistrates and officers. This arbitrary ordinance, under the sanction of law, after reciting the Act of Explanation, and the powers thereby given to the Viceroy in Council for prescribing such regulations, directs as follows:—*First*, that the Mayor, Sheriffs, Recorder, Town-clerk, and other officers of the town, should be chosen only by the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Common Council, or the greater number of those present; that no freeman should have any vote in such elections; and no matter relating to the town be debated in any assembly, until it had first passed the Common Council.—*Second*. That all foreigners, strangers, and aliens,

as well others as Protestants, who then were, or should be, resident merchants, traders, artisans, seamen, or otherwise, should, on their request, and on payment or tender of twenty shillings each, by way of fine, be admitted a freeman of all, or any separate guild, as he might desire, during the residence of him and his family within said town, and should have and enjoy all privileges and immunities of trading, buying, working, and selling, in as large and ample a manner as any freeman, and be deemed a denizen within this kingdom: provided always, that all such foreigners, strangers, &c., take the oath of allegiance, and such other oaths as are accustomedly taken by freemen of the town, or members of the guild of trade or craft which he shall exercise, in case he shall desire to be incorporated in such guild, and pay all such charges as freemen use to pay; and a penalty of disfranchisement was imposed on any magistrates, masters, wardens, or other governors, respectively, who could be proved to have refused the admission of such applicant, and on every person disturbing such stranger, or hindering his trading.—

Third. That these rules should continue in force within said town for ever, and be enrolled in Chancery.—Thus was the ancient law of boroughs restored to a certain extent, and, notwithstanding the system of exclusion previously attempted, every trader in the towns of Ireland, on the original and long recognized principle of habitancy, was hereby enabled to be a freeman, though incapable of filling

a corporate office without taking the prescribed oaths, unless such were dispensed with. The liberal spirit, however, that dictated these rules, and opened the avenues to corporate freedom, was overlooked after the Restoration, and the injudicious and illegal attempts of James the Second, against his opponents in borough towns, gave power and authority to the advocates of municipal exclusion and corporate inviolability.

In 1673 the Corporation leased to Joshua Crowther, "ruinous old walls, formerly St. Stephen's Poor-house, for 61 years, at 6s. 6d. annual rent, for the poor." In 1674, Alderman Richard Orson having been elected to serve the office of Mayor, and John Graham that of Sheriff, and their election being presented to the Lord Lieutenant for his approbation, he signified his disapproval, whereupon the Assembly substituted Alderman Newton, with John Sandiford and William Barron, as Sheriffs. In 1675, the Assembly ordered that the Mayor and certain Aldermen should review all the oaths prescribed in the White Parchment Book, and make such alterations as they might deem convenient, and have same "new entered;" and in 1682, they granted to John Hughes, Serjeant of the Franchises, the furze on the Cooleys, he engaging to supply furze for bonfires on station days. In the latter year they also passed a Resolution, "that all Protestants, that drive any trade in this Corporation, do forthwith repair to Mr. Mayor, and take out their freedoms at or before the 1st day of June next, who

is hereby empowered to admit them upon their application, without fine; and that every person that Mr. Mayor sends to perform the conditions of this Act, and shall neglect or refuse so to do by the time limited, the Mayor and Sheriffs of this Corporation, and the Master and Wardens of the trade they follow, shall repair to their shops, and shall then prevent and hinder them from trading; and for such persons as keep no shops, that whatever goods or wares they trade in, shall be seized as foreigners' goods, and that the Corporation shall justify the Mayor and Sheriffs, and the Master and Wardens, in the performance hereof, against any suit or trouble that shall be commenced against them. In July, 1685, the Assembly, having taken consideration of the petition of Mr. Peppard and others, to be admitted free members of this Corporation, answered, that they had already, in reply to other similar petitions, stated, that by the rules made by the Lord Deputy and Council for this body, they cannot admit any person to be free, without first taking the oath of supremacy, that they submitted the matter to the Lord Lieutenant and Council, and would be ready to submit to and obey such orders as they should think fit to make thereon. On the ensuing 7th of August, the following persons were sworn free members of this Corporation: the Earl of Tyrconnel, the Lord of Louth, the Lord Gormanston, Lord Netterville, Captain William Nugent, Nicholas Plunkett, Henry Draycot, Cornet William Talbot, George Gernon,

Theobald Throgmorton, Nicholas D'Arcy and Nicholas Taaffe, Esqrs.

In 1686, an information, in the nature of a *quo warranto*, was brought against this and other Corporations, and on their default in appearing thereto, and in fact agreeing to surrender, as they did by vote of assembly, their franchises were seised to the use of the Crown; when on the 5th of November, 1687, King James granted a new charter, and thereby, after reciting the judgment in *quo warranto*, he willed and ordained that this town, and its liberties, should constitute a borough, and be a distinct county, according to the extent of its ancient boundaries, and incorporated under the name of the Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commons, of the town of Drogheda, with the usual powers and privileges to acquire lands, sue and be sued, have a common seal, and make by-laws; that there should be for the future one Mayor, two Sheriffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and thirty-two burgesses; while he, by said charter, nominated as the first and immediate Mayor, Sheriffs, &c.: Ignatius Peppard, Mayor; Christopher Dowdall and James Kelshaw, Sheriffs: Jenico Lord Gormanston, Thomas Peppard, Senior, Thomas Peppard Fitz George, Thomas Bellew, William Baron, Nicholas D'Arcy of Platten, Christopher Cheevers, Hugh Gernon, John Moore, Christopher Peppard Fitz George, Christopher Peppard Fitz Ignatius, William Peppard, Bartholomew Gernon, Patrick Plunkett, Andrew Moore, Thomas Percival, Luke Conly, John

Stoker, Bartholomew Hamlin, Richard Jackson, John Evers, William Elwood, James Vanbobard, and Patrick Drumgoole (24), Aldermen: and Richard Mortimer, Anthony Bird, Ignatius Fleming, James Bird, John Graham, John Delahoyde, Patrick White, Thomas Shepherd, Christopher Peppard Fitz Robert, Bartholomew Doyle, Richard Griffith, Robert Cooley, Michael Moore, Robert Dermot, Paul Eaton, Edmund Dermot, Patrick Delahoyde, William Ballantine, James Warren, Lewis Cheevers, John Smith, Christopher Teeling, John Stanley, Joseph George, John Bird, John Dowdall, Henry Ogle, Peter Russell, John Wall, Gregory Ward, Patrick Nugent, Patrick Clarke, burgesses (32): Thomas Fitz Christopher Peppard, Chamberlain; Henry Dowdall, Recorder; Thomas Peppard Fitz George, Town Clerk and Prothonotary; Christopher Teeling and Joseph George, Coroners. During the short interval of their holding, a number of improvident leases were irregularly made of the corporate property, for private appropriation and amongst those who should be its trustees. It may be here mentioned, that while the royalty of James the Second in Ireland survived his English abdication, or was at least in a manner acknowledged by a large portion of his Irish subjects, the majority of the Corporations in this country made free gifts of their municipal plate, to enable him to meet the exigencies of his Exchequer; amongst the rest, Drogheda bestowed at least that portion which was ostensible,

including their mace, which was subsequently replaced by the gift of William the Third, being that now in use. It is of silver, and five feet two inches in length, exhibiting the rose, the thistle, the harp, and the fleur de lis, with the letters w. r. beneath the Crown, which is itself surmounted by a globe or orb, and a decorated cross, the whole being chased and embossed with a richness worthy of the royal donor. This monarch also gave to the Assembly a halbert of state, a sword of state and scabbard, silver gilt, with the royal arms attached.

At an Assembly of the 6th of July, 1688, "consideration being had of the great benefit the poor may have and receive yearly, if the commons on both sides of the town be set to a rent, reserving a competent proportion thereof for the exercising the foot and horse, and for grazing of horses coming with goods to the market;" a committee was then appointed to consider the best way for setting same, and to report thereon. On the 12th of July, 1690, the town having surrendered to King William, after the battle of the Boyne, he appointed William Elwood Mayor of this town, and Henry Earl of Drogheda, Sir William Tichburne, Jonas Elwood, and fifteen others, Aldermen, and constituted Robert Orson and Henry Ogle, Sheriffs of same, "to exercise and enjoy all the ancient privileges and jurisdictions of their charter, whereof they were illegally deprived, and particularly to oversee the markets, and regulate the prices of things, which are now exorbitant." This

order and appointment is signed by Robert Southwell, as by his Majesty's command, in the camp at Kilcullen Bridge. No Assembly proceedings, however, appear to have taken place here, from the 30th of April, 1688, to the 15th of September, 1691. On the 15th of January, however, in that year, the Assembly passed resolutions for the better collection of cess to defray the charges of the Corporation; and in a few days afterwards, Alderman Singleton having reported, that he had proceeded to Dublin on the setting of the lands held by the Roman Catholics, and in particular in relation to the setting of Mr. Peppard's lands, and that Serjeant Osborne advised the Corporation not to meddle in taking the latter holdings, but that he himself had contracted with Mr. Peppard for St. James's, for this year, for the use of the Corporation, if they think fit to hold it; this Assembly considered it not worth intermeddling with.

By inquisition taken at the Tholsel on the 25th of May, 1697, the Mayor and Corporation were found then seised in fee in right of their Corporation, of the Guildhall or gaol lying north of the bridge; two stone offices west of the Guildhall; one messuage south of the graveyard of St. Peter's church; a house, garden, and old walls in Fair-street; two houses in Lawrence-street; two in West-street; a house and garden in Maudlin-street, south of Stephen's-lane; the town-hall, with the cellars underneath it; two houses in Bachelor's-lane; another in Harp's-lane; two tene-

ments and a garden in West-street; various tenements on the south side of West-street, from the passage leading to St. Patrick's well to West-gate, known by the name of New-row; four messuages on the north side of Fair-street, and four on the south; a house with a cellar on the turn from West-street to St. Peter-street; one house and three offices in the lower part of Shop-street, at the west side; another house in Shop-street, at the south side of Harp's-lane; a house at the turn from Fair-street into Magdalen-street, with orchard ground; a messuage in Irish-street; a house in St. Ellen's-lane; a pair of old walls and a garden in St. James's-street; two houses in the same street, on the south side of Rotten-row; a garden on the Bull-ring, opposite the east end of St. John's-street; a house south of St. Peter's church; another west of said church; three houses on the north side of West-street, and two on the south; a garden north of the bridge, joining the Guildhall at west; a house called the Castle of Comfort, near the Mill-mount; a house in West-street, near Scarlet-lane; a house abutting on the Guildhall, at the turn to the north quay; a house in Deer-street; a house in Shop-street called the Mary-foot; a house in the Bull-ring, and an old wall called St. Saviour's; a house and garden at foot of the hill over against the Castle of Comfort; a house and garden at foot of the same hill, on the south side; a house and garden in Lawrence-street; another in same street, at the west side of Goulding-lane; a tenement and garden in Wine's-

hill or lane; a house adjoining St. Ellen's, *alias* Keyser's-lane; two tenements and gardens in St. John's-street; a house on Corn-market-hill; a house on the west side of Shop-street; two houses and gardens on St. Saviour's-quay, joining the west side of the Guild-hall; three tenements and gardens on the south side of Deer-street; two houses in Fair-street; a tenement on the west side of the Corn-market, called the Bell-house; old walls and gardens in Shop-street; a house and garden in Duleek-street; a house abutting on St. Patrick's well and the Boyne; a house and garden in Harp's-lane; a house and cellar on the east side of Corn-market; a house and garden in Keyser's-lane; a house and garden at the north side of West-street; a tenement in Deer-street; another in Shop-street; a house near the Old Jakes; three houses and gardens on the north side of West-street; a house on the north side of Deer-street; and orchard ground on the north side of West-street; a house in Bowling-lane; a tenement on the south side of West-street; old walls and gardens on the south quay; a house under Duleek-gate; a house and garden at the east side of Shop-street; a house and garden on Duleek-hill; house on the hill leading to Duleek-gate; two houses in St. John-street, south of the bridge; a house on the west side of the wall of the Augustinian Friary; a house and garden on the east side of Shop-street; a house on the north side of Fair-street; a tenement turning from Shop-street to Lawrence-street; a house west of the passage leading from the

south quay to St. James's-gate; a house and garden in Bachelor's-lane; a tenement and garden near Sunday's-gate; a house in Magdalen-street, near the vicar's house and garden, within the graveyard of St. Peter's; a house and garden on the west side of said graveyard; another house on same side; a house in Lawrence-street, and a parcel of land near the fountain called the Broadstone.

All the aforesaid *quo warranto* proceedings, as well as the new charters consequent thereupon, and other acts done thereunder, having been revoked, and the Corporation restored to their former state and condition by the Statute of 1 William & Mary, sess. 2, c. 9, King William granted the governing charter, bearing date the 22nd of March, 1697. It recites, that the Corporation had in their petition alleged, that there were then but two charter justices (the Mayor and Recorder), and that the limits of their lands were almost lost by length of time; it also recites the Attorney-General's report on the petition, a summary of several of the privileges of the Corporation, and the inquisition so taken at Drogheda in 1697, relative to their estates; and the king thereby confirmed the said recited, and all other, their privileges and properties, and granted anew the power of dividing themselves into guilds of trades, the exemptions from toll, &c. He further prescribed, that the Mayor of the Staple and two of the senior Aldermen, who had served in the office of Mayor (to be elected by the table of Aldermen),

should be justices; and that the Quarter Sessions be held before the Mayor and any one justice, except in matters concerning life, or *præmunire*, when the Recorder was directed always to be present. The Corporation property confirmed, granted, and set forth in this charter, consisted of 187 houses, messuages, and tenements; twenty-three gardens and orchards; 128 parks, crofts, and other closes, comprising in the whole 338 holdings in the town and county of Drogheda, the contents of which are not specified; and forty-five other holdings, the contents of which are stated, and amount in the total to 230A. 1R. 15P.; besides the old Guildhall, the Tholsel, some tenements not enumerated, the Augustinian friary, the vicarage-houses and gardens of St. Peter's; St. Lawrence's, St. James's, and St. Mary's hospitals; two water-mills, the Aldermen's Acres, and the Justices' Parks; the farms of Townrath, Killineer, and Mannimore; the town commons, 100 acres on the Louth side, and thirty-seven on the Meath; the Mill-mount; the town walls; the gate-houses, towers, and turrets on the walls; the town ditch, and the wastes and vacancies therein; also a house and garden near the church of Molary, in the barony of Ferrard; the impropriate tithes of the parish of Inismott, in the barony of Slane, in the occupation of the Sheriffs; five fee-farm rents arising out of the free-school of Drogheda, and other messuages in the town, amounting to £6 9s. 5d.; a fee-farm rent of five shillings, payable by the vicar of the

collegiate church of St. Peter's, for three messuages, three gardens, and sixty-two acres of arable land in Daviestown; also, three gardens and sixty acres of arable land in Lisranymore and Plaudin-Plandon and Little Lisrany; one messuage and seven acres of land in Heynstown; three acres of land in Reynoldstown; also two messuages and two gardens within the liberties of Dundalk; one messuage within Warren's-gate; one garden, or homestead joining Seatown-gate; and "divers other messuages and parcels of land intermixt within the liberties of Dundalk;" also "four acres of land in Reynolds-town; eleven acres in Haggardstown; 300 acres, with divers tenements in and about Carlingford and land of Heighlin." All these premises, the charter states, were contained in a particular signed by the Auditor and Deputy Surveyor-General, made out for the Corporation, under the king's letters of the 28th of March, 1697, and the following rents were reserved for the premises: for the fee-farm of the town of Drogheda £25; for a messuage in Lawrence-street, and other parcels called Chauntry lands, five shillings; for the friary of St. Augustine, eight shillings; for the Carmelites' friary, £1 1s. 3d.; for the priory of St. Lawrence, £5; for the house of St. Mary de Urso, £15 1s. 4d.; for the hospital of St. James, £1; and for the fee-farm rent of a parcel of land on Mill-moat, *alias* Windmill, in the county of Meath, three shillings; making a total of £47 18s. 7d., payable at Michaelmas.

In the July following, the Assembly resolved, that for the future, no person, that was admitted free of the Corporation, should have the benefit of his freedom, or his goods free of custom, longer than while he would dwell, reside, and inhabit in the town; and that, at the time of any person's being sworn free for the future, he should sign an instrument under his hand and seal, to the Mayor for the time being, thereby disclaiming any benefit of his freedom longer than during his actual residence and inhabitancy within the town. At the close of the year 1699, the Assembly came to a resolution, in which reciting, that the commons at north and south of the town were the estate and inheritance of the Corporation, that they long lay waste and yielded no advantage to the body, but were used by strangers and idle bad people, who came and sat down on, or near, said lands, giving only encouragement to thieves and ill people to come and harbour about the town; for redress thereof, they the Mayor, &c., in Assembly, resolved to set out the said lands to farm by public cant to the best bidder, and at the highest rent, such rent not to be mixed with the corporate treasury, or employed for the uses of the body, but to be for ever thereafter set apart for the relief of poor decayed members of the Corporation, their widows and orphans, and other approved objects. In 1702 the Assembly voted, that whatsoever leases of corporate property were enjoyed by Papists should not be renewed; but

that same should be let run out to the full, and then set to the best advantage for the Corporation. They at the same time conveyed the Mill-mount to the Crown, with the object of having barracks erected thereon; and in November, voted an address to his Majesty, "on the present occasion of the French King's proclaiming the pretended Prince of Wales King of England, Scotland, and Ireland." At the same time, they appear to have confirmed to the vicar of St. Peter's, and his successors, the vicarage-house and garden, as before alluded to in the notice of St. Peter's church.

In 1707, the Assembly ordered, that the Mayor and certain Aldermen should proceed to Dublin to attend on the Parliament, in case of any petition being preferred against their Corporation for taking custom for yarn, and that their expenses and charges should be defrayed out of the town funds: they also came to a resolution, that no freeman should be put in nomination, or elected into any of the offices or places of either Mayor, Aldermen, or Sheriffs of this Corporation, unless he were a resident house-keeper and dweller with his family at the time of his election. And in the following year, they ordered that a communication should be made from them through their Mayor to the Mayor and Corporation of Liverpool, remonstrating against the exaction of custom from their own freemen for goods consigned to them by the freemen of this body; and desiring that the freemen of Drogheda might have

the same freedom with them, that was allowed to the freemen of Liverpool in Drogheda. At this latter period it was ordered, that no powder, ball, or flints should be sold to any Papist. In 1719, the north commons, and the south commons called the Cow Leys (the rents of which, it is recited, had been theretofore set apart by the Corporation for the support of poor decayed Protestant freemen), were granted by the Mayor, to the then vicar of this church and his successors, for ever, in trust that the rents should for the future be paid to such freemen, their widows and orphans, as the Assembly might appoint.

In 1724, the king, under the great seal of Ireland, released and discharged the Corporation from all arrears of the Vicars' Choral money. In 1725 that body, in consequence of a prevalent scarcity of bread, ordered that all persons, whether foreigners or freemen, should have liberty to make bread and sell same without paying quarterage, they conforming to the assize given out by Mr. Mayor weekly; and in 1726, by a resolution reciting, that several Popish inhabitants of this Corporation in 1688, when the magistracy and government were entirely in the hands of Papists, did obtain several leases of divers lands and tenements, the property and inheritance of this body, which said leases were then set up by the said Papists, or their representatives, it was ordered unanimously, that no lease obtained by any Papist in said year, be allowed; or

any rent received thereon by the Treasurer of this Corporation, till the validity of all such leases be tried at law, at the expense of the body. In 1731 they exerted themselves strenuously to prevent the dealers in grain from selling by strike measure, to the great prejudice of the market; and in the following year appropriated £50 towards rebuilding the poor-house of St. John's.

In 1738 the lands of Killineer, part of the Corporate property, were sold to defray the town's debt for building the bridge, as incurred in 1723: and in the same year, the Corporation granted to Sir Thomas Taylor, Baronet, a lease of a garden and orchard without St. Lawrence's gate, north of the way thence to Green Hills, commonly known by the name of the White House, with a park called Tracy's Park, wherein was formerly a water-mill; together with the water-course, mill, park, and mill-pond. The Assembly in 1744 ordered, that goods coming into town for the use and consumption of private gentlemen in their families, should not pay custom; and in 1756 they leased to Elizabeth, widow of Alderman William Shepheard, "the buildings and garden late in the possession of the Marshal of Drogheda, as his prison or Marshalsea for debtors," for a term of sixty-one years. In 1761 occurred the *mandamus* case at the suit of Ralph Eccleston and Joseph Appleyard against this Corporation; but which it appears sufficient here to refer to, and to state that the applicants were ulti-

mately admitted. In 1766 the Assembly ordered that the Mayor and Sheriffs, and the auditors and viewers, and any other gentlemen of the Corporation that could give any advice or information to them, should be and were thereby directed and empowered to inquire into the state and circumstances of all lands and houses belonging to this body, that are now in the possession of Papists, or other persons not legally entitled thereto, and report same to the next General Assembly.

In the latter year the Corporation petitioned Parliament, setting forth that their body had from time to time obtained several charters from the Crown, whereby, as well as by custom from time immemorial, they were authorized to regulate the trade of the town, to incorporate guilds, with powers to elect officers and make by-laws, subject to the Mayor's approbation; that by constant custom quarterage was paid to such guilds by persons not free of same, yet exercising trades there, which quarterage was applied to and requisite for the support of said guilds. That doubts having then lately arisen, whether the grant of charters to said guilds, or the payment of said quarterage, were warranted by law, the said guilds had become diffident of exercising their powers, and persons had opened shops, and exercised trades in said town in defiance of municipal regulations, to the injury of the fair traders, artificers, and inhabitants, whereby combinations ensued, detrimental as well to the trade as

to the peace and good government thereof ; the petitioners therefore prayed the house to consider the premises, and enable them to establish said guilds on a sure footing, subject to their controul.—Against this complaint, the merchants, traders, manufacturers, and artists, of said town, who were not freemen, presented a counter-petition, denying the right to exact quarterage, and stating, that so far from entering into any illegal combinations, they contributed to support commerce in the town, by their regular and industrious habits, as well as by the quality of their goods and work. In the following year, heads of a bill were prepared, for confirming and ascertaining the aids and contributions payable by the freemen and non-freemen of the said and other Corporations, against which, however, the non-freemen having again petitioned, and the matter having been referred to a committee, nothing further was done upon it.

In 1767, the Corporation leased a strip of ground in Magdalen-street, to the vicar of St. Peter's church and his successors, for 999 years, at a nominal rent, as mentioned in the preceding notices of that church. The Assembly being informed in 1770, that John Jones, stone cutter, a free carpenter of this Corporation, was married to a Popish wife, it was ordered, that unless he satisfied the next general assembly of the contrary, or that his wife did, within a year and a day after his marriage, conform to the Protestant religion, and since such conformity continued a Protestant, he should be from thenceforth disfranchised,

and stand deprived of his freedom. In 1771, the ancient agreement, that subsisted between this Corporation and that of Dublin, relative to their interchange of commerce, was mutually certified, and an entry thereof made in the "White Parchment Book" yet preserved in their muniments. In the same year, the Mayor's salary was increased to £200, to enable him to give entertainment at the Mayoralty house. In 1773, the Assembly resolved, that the part of the oath of a freeman of this Corporation, which bars him from claiming the right of freedom longer than while resident therein, be expunged, and that the instrument heretofore signed and sealed by freemen on their being sworn, be for the future discontinued; and it was further resolved, that the following words be inserted or added to the oath to be taken by freemen of this Corporation, to wit, "You shall not cover any goods, whereby the King or this Corporation may lose their custom or advantages." In 1780, the vicar of St. Peter's obtained another grant to him and his successors, of a parcel of ground on the west side of St. Peter's churchyard, at a nominal rent, as also stated in the notices of that church.

In 1784, Mr. Edward Chesshire had license from the Corporation to establish a ferry for passengers and goods, not subject to town custom, from the hide market to the opposite shore at Ball's Grove, across the Boyne, for three years, at £1 yearly rent. In an Assembly of the following year, it was resolved unanimously, that proper chains, to be worn as

badges of office by the Mayor and Sheriffs of the Corporation, should be forthwith provided, the one for the Mayor not to exceed in value twenty guineas, and those of the Sheriffs ten guineas, each. In 1786, the Body passed their vote, that the Mayor should thenceforth be allowed £150 *per annum*, together with the profits arising from the town cranes, and not be required to give more than five entertainments annually to the members of the Corporation, also that £22 15s. be allowed to each successive Mayor, to keep up the furniture, plate, &c., in the mayoralty house; while in 1790, they resolved unanimously, that it was the intention of the Corporation in voting an increased salary to the Mayor, that he should give five entertainments on the days prescribed in the resolution; and that not having done so, whatever remained of his allowance unpaid, should be withheld, and applied as to the Corporation should seem meet.

The proceedings by information instituted against this body in 1791, in reference to the Vicars' Choral endowment, and their consequence, have been fully detailed in the previous notices of St. Peter's Church. In 1793, the Assembly resolved that the appointment of Chaplain to their body was unnecessary, and that said office be discontinued from the day the militia of Drogheda should return to the county. They also passed a resolution, that the chief magistrates of this Corporation for the time being, have hitherto exercised, and of right in future should

have the power of dismissing any of the town serjeants for misconduct or neglect of duty, and in 1797, ordered that the Judges' lodgings, when here on circuit, should no longer be paid by the Corporation, nor the expense of ringing bells on certain festivals. They also voted that in future the freedom should not be granted to any Lord Lieutenant's suite, nor to any person holding place or pension during pleasure under the Crown; and in 1798 resolved, that the expense incident to the gaol of this town and county, be not paid by the Corporation, from and after the 1st of January next, nor the expense of the watch establishment; and that the charge of paving the streets should in future be defrayed by the inhabitants. In 1801, the Assembly gave it as an instruction to their auditors and viewers, in reporting on petitions for renewals of leases of houses, lands, or other premises, that they should first estimate the premises at the full value between man and man, and that then the petitioner should be entitled to a renewal of his lease for 99 years, at one-fourth of that annual value as a rent, and on paying or fining down another or second fourth, at 17 years purchase of lands, and 10 of houses. In this latter year the Corporation granted a lease of "one lot or parcel of ground, with the buildings thereon, commonly called the old chapel ground, situate without the West gate of Drogheda," to Messrs. Dardis, Delahoyde, and Hamill, as trustees on behalf of the Roman Catholic inhabitants of St.

Peter's parish for 99 years, at the yearly rent of £3 5s. for the use and purpose of supporting and keeping thereon a charity school or chapel, as is therein mentioned. In 1808, they passed a Resolution "that the town wall and gates of the town do of right belong to this Corporation, and that the chief magistrate shall not part with the right or possession of same to any person whatever without a special order of the Corporate Assembly." In 1809, they ordered that the gate-customs should be available as a fund to widen the bridge; in 1810, sanctioned the appropriation of a place at the Mayoralty House, called the Change, for the purpose of a sitting-room for the inhabitants and merchants; and in 1814, resolved "that the bridge of the town was in such a state of danger, from one of the buttresses and other parts thereof, having failed, that it was necessary it should be pulled down and a new one erected; that application should be made for a Parliamentary aid, and in the meantime a certain toll upon horses, cattle, cows, and carriages, passing or repassing the bridge, ought to be established and continued until such sum as the Corporation might be able to borrow on the security thereof could be repaid with interest."

It is to be regretted that in the spirit, then too general amongst corporate bodies in Ireland, that of Drogheda came to a resolution on the 29th of April, 1829, that they felt it their duty, in order to prevent the increase of Popery in this country, and to check the dangerous consequences to their religion and

liberties, should the proposed infringement on the constitution (Catholic Emancipation) succeed, to recommend to the General Assembly the necessity of admitting certain persons therein named to the freedom of the body. In 1833 (14th February) occurs the only charter of recent times; King William the Fourth thereby granting four fairs, viz., on the second Monday in March, second Friday in April, third Friday in November, and third Friday in December, with reasonable tolls, and such customs and immunities as by right or custom to the same belong, at an annual rent of 12*s.* 4*d.* In 1835, the Assembly ordered deeds to be prepared for vesting in the Protestant clergymen for the time being, together with the governors and subscribers of the Blue School, a sufficient yearly sum, to be secured by a transfer of corporate rents, for the punctual payment of the subsisting yearly grants for charitable purposes, and enabling the said trustees to receive said sum for the use of the respective institutions.

Corporations under chartered control having been discontinued in Ireland, and the principle of popular election recognized by Parliamentary sanction, as necessary for their future amelioration and annual correction; in the October of 1842, after an uninterrupted enjoyment of their franchises and privileges, the prescriptive borough, whose history it has been the object of these volumes to elucidate, may be considered as having in strictness ceased to

exist(a), or at least its vitality passed into another order of being. On the first of November, the municipal transmigration was consummated by the election of the Mayor, an event which is thus announced in the leading Journal of the town, "The Drogheda Argus."

"Tuesday, the first of November, being the day fixed upon by the municipal Act for the election and swearing in of the first Mayor of the Reformed Corporation of Drogheda, the Tholsel and the different streets in its vicinity, were crowded almost to suffocation by persons anxious to witness the novel event.

"About 12 o'clock, noon, the Aldermen and members of the Council met in the Assembly Room, and having read and subscribed the oath of allegiance prescribed by the Catholic Relief Bill, for Roman Catholics taking office, they proceeded to the densely crowded Crown Court, where the outgoing Mayor, attired in his robes of office, awaited them to administer the oath; a ceremony which was immediately performed. The several members of the Council returned to the Assembly Room, followed by a large number of the burgesses and commonalty, when Alderman Ternan moved a resolution that Alderman Ennis should take the chair. This having been unanimously carried, Alderman Ternan again rose

(a) It may be remarked as a curious coincidence, that at the same time died George Ball of Ball's-grove, the lineal male descendant of that Robert Ball who obtained the first charter for the union of the boroughs.

and said—‘I have the honor to propose as first Mayor for this borough, under the Reformed Municipal Act for Ireland, a gentleman in every respect qualified to discharge the duties of that important trust; in whom are combined the upright citizen, the sincere friend, and the impartial magistrate, and who, at the same time that he has through life observed a kind and conciliatory manner towards all, has maintained a high character for sterling worth and undeviating independence of principle. Anticipating as I do, that this, the first act of the Reformed Corporation of Drogheda, will be unanimously adopted, I trust it will serve as a guarantee that our future proceedings shall be guided by prudence, temperance, and unanimity; and, in conclusion, allow me to express a confident conviction, that when my friend’s year of office shall have expired, he will retire, after having faithfully fulfilled the trust, and impartially discharged the duties that may be imposed upon him, with honour to himself and advantage to his native town. I therefore move, that Thomas Carty, Esq., Alderman, be appointed Mayor of the borough of Drogheda for the ensuing year.’ Alderman Mathews, to whom was entrusted the honour of seconding the nomination, rose for that purpose, and expressed his entire concurrence in the sentiments expressed by Alderman Ternan. So many members of the Council rose with the same intention of seconding the nomination that it was carried with acclamation.

“His worship the Mayor elect was then conducted to the Crown Court, where the oath of allegiance, identical with that taken by the Council, and the oath of office, were administered by the Town Clerk, Joseph Holmes, Esq., before Mr. Mayor Fogarty, who, at the conclusion, took the gold chain of office from his neck and placed it upon that of his worship, Thomas Carty, Esq., as Mayor of the town of Drogheda. The performance of this ceremony was the signal for one univereal shout of acclamation, such as was never before heard in Drogheda on the occasion of the inauguration of a corporate chief magistrate,—the shout was renewed, and again and again re-echoed by the thousands who thronged the avenues leading to the Tholsel. So densely were the galleries and every inch of the Court crowded, that it was with the greatest difficulty the Mayor and Council were able to return to the Assembly-room. On their arrival there the Mayor took his seat as President. About two o'clock the Assembly adjourned, and immediately formed in procession: the sword and mace were borne in advance, followed by the Mayor and Alderman Ternan, and the Aldermen, Town-Councillors and gentlemen invited as guests, two and two, accompanied by thousands of the delighted people. In this order they proceeded down Shop-street, and along the North-quay, amid loud acclamations, the waving of hats and handkerchiefs from the windows, and the firing of cannon from the shipping (which had all

their flags hoisted), until they arrived at the Mayoralty Rooms, where his Worship had provided a splendid dejeuner. On its conclusion, and after a routine of the usual toasts, the Mayor rose and said—‘ You have a representative whose merits are so well known to each of you, that I deem it unnecessary for me to attempt to enumerate them—I therefore give you, simply, ‘ the health of the Representative of Drogheda, Sir William Somerville.’ Drunk with the most enthusiastic cheers, and one cheer more.

“ Sir William Somerville, when the cheering subsided, rose and said—‘ Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Town-Councillors of Drogheda, and gentlemen assembled, I return you my most sincere thanks for the very flattering manner in which you have received my name. There is no occasion on which I would prefer having to thank you,—there is no place nor assembly in which I would rather have the pleasure of thanking you for the toast, than on this occasion and in this place. This is a proud day for all—a day of triumph for none. It has been a day of pride for you who have been hitherto placed below your fellow-citizens; and a proud day for those who hoped to see all distinctions done away, so that all could work amicably together for the advantage of their town; a proud day for those who long foresaw that justice would finally triumph, however long the event might be delayed. Many prognosticated the most disastrous results, if such an event as that we now witness was to happen—the sun of England’s

glory was to set for ever—something supernatural was to come to pass—the Boyne was to overflow its venerable banks and deluge your desecrated town—prosperity was for ever to fly, and leave nought behind but misery and desolation. But the change *has* happened, and yet I can perceive nothing very extraordinary beyond the smoke ascending from your factories, and the sound of industry outside upon your quay, whilst within sits Thomas Carty, as Mayor of Drogheda, proposing with fervid loyalty the health of the Sovereign who wields the British sceptre, and whose highest wish is, that there should be no distinctions amongst her subjects. I am delighted to have seen this day—it is a day of triumph over none: there may be persons who may not have the confidence of the people, but there is no mark of inferiority fixed upon them by the law—they are eligible for every office. It was the mark of inferiority which envenomed the sting. It is highly gratifying to me to feel, that I had a share in bringing about this good result; and I feel full security that it must be beneficial to the town. I am delighted to stand here to return thanks to the first Town Council, and the first Mayor, elected by the free suffrages of the people. It is indeed a proud day to me to be allowed to feel, that by my humble efforts I have been able to give you some slight return for the many marks of honour which you have bestowed on me; and which I shall endeavour hereafter to deserve.' The honourable member sat

down, and after a moment's pause he again rose and said—' I have received permission to propose a toast, and I do so with the most heartfelt pleasure. It is the health of your Mayor. A merchant of your town: and who, I would ask, more fit to be your chief magistrate? who more fit to be placed at the head of your mercantile town, than one of your first merchants? A man known to you all—of the most unassuming manners, and of mildness in the expression of his political opinions, yet who has stood forth with energy and firmness combined, whenever the circumstances of his country required it. Who more fit to be entrusted with the care and the guardianship of the town, and the administration of the laws, than one of your most impartial magistrates? [loud cheers.] I am prevented by his presence from saying all that his character deserves. When he leaves the high position in which you have placed him, I am sure that he will have the regard and esteem of all who know him. When he retires from the office of Mayor, it must excite a feeling of regret in the minds of those who supported that state of things which prevented such men from taking office in their native town.' Sir William concluded by proposing the health of Thomas Carty, Esq., Mayor of Drogheda [loud and continued cheering].

" After some intermediate toasts, ' Our Protestant and Dissenting friends who have honoured us with their company on this occasion,' was drunk, with oft

repeated plaudits; when Doctor Atkinson being loudly called on, rose and said—‘Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, members of the Council, and gentlemen, I regret extremely that you have not called on some gentleman more competent than I am, to return thanks. From my esteemed friend, the Mayor, the sentiment is one that I would expect, knowing him as I do for many years. I can say that the Protestants of Drogheda feel great pleasure in seeing my Catholic friend raised to the position he holds [loud cheers, and cries of hear, hear, from the Protestant and Dissenting gentlemen present.] I have been a member of the Corporation of Drogheda for twelve years, and I never took a part in a civic entertainment until this day, and I come here to express my concurrence in the principles of reform, under which you have been elected. I can say, that the Mayor enters into his office with the respect and esteem, not merely of those of his own creed, but also of the Dissenting and Protestant friends around me [loud cheers from the gentlemen alluded to]. I am sure that the Protestants of Drogheda will feel grateful to him for proposing, and to you gentlemen, for the manner in which you have received this toast.’ Dr. Atkinson sat down amid loud cheers. The ‘Town and Trade of Drogheda’ was next announced, and James M’Cann, Esq., being loudly called on, rose and said—‘Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, this may be truly called a great day for Drogheda: and what constitutes, in my mind, the pleasure of the day, consists in the

manner in which every thing has passed off. It affords me the greatest pleasure to behold in his present high and honourable position, my old friend and schoolfellow; and to see myself surrounded in this room, by my fellow-townsmen, the aldermen and town-councillors, who have been elected by the suffrages of the honest burgesses of Drogheda. A mistaken policy prevented the men, whom I see around me, from taking that part which they were entitled to take, in promoting the interests of the town; but I trust, that all will be now united for the benefit of the Trade and Commerce of Drogheda; a good and kindly feeling, and a determination to act in unison, is the best means by which to increase the trade, and the consequent prosperity of your town. With me, religion and politics have long ceased to make any difference. I trust that all will put their shoulders to the wheel, and labour in unison for the welfare and benefit of the town. I am, at least, sure, that this is the feeling of all here."

The officials, from and to whom the responsibilities and trusts of this Community have been transferred, at the close of the one, and the commencement of the other government, were:

OLD OFFICIALS.

NEW OFFICIALS.

Thomas F. Fogarty, M.D., Thomas Carty, Mayor.
Mayor.

*Aldermen.**Aldermen.*

T. B. Harman.

Thomas Ennis.

Ralph Smyth.

Patrick Ternan.

OLD OFFICIALS.

St. George Smyth.
F. G. Fairtlough.
Blaney Townley Balfour.
Latham Fairtlough.
Joseph Holmes.
William Fairtlough.
Francis Donagh.
George William Evans.
H. B. Fairtlough.
John Acland.
Francis Anderson.
Graves Acland.
G. H. Pentland.
Robert Pentland.
Henry Smith.
Thomas North.
Francis Ball.
William Murray.
Robert Ball Hacket.
John Shegog.

Common Council.

George Jones.
Obadiah Wisdom.
Charles F. Collins.
Austin Nicholls.
Thomas Beddy.
John Mayne.
Samuel Wisdom.
Samuel W. Crawford.

NEW OFFICIALS.

James Matthews.
Michael Rogers.
Thomas Simcocks.

Town-Councillors.

James Levins.
Anthony Keppock.
John Collins.
John Finegan.
Patrick Boylan.
Stephen Drew.
Patrick Byrne.
Daniel Brady.
Thomas Hammond.
Joseph Mac Cann.
Michael Walsh.
John Connolly.
Patrick Conway.
John Oates.
John Chester.
William Campbell.
Peter Verdon.
Patrick Kelly.

OLD OFFICIALS.

<i>Common Council.</i>	Henry Garvey.
Michael Daly.	John Cooper.
Henry Bagnall.	Alfred Cowdroy.

Although one of the first acts of the new Corporation, was to abolish tolls in their borough, under the impression, that if the charges were confined to what was legally leviable, the amount of revenue produced would not exceed the expenses attendant on the collection and management of the impost; yet may their more particular detail be not still irrelevant. Sanctioned, as they were, by immemorial usage, they were levied under three ostensible classifications; 1st, gate customs; 2nd, pontage; and 3rd, water customs; and were claimed under a right of toll thorough, for murage, paviage, pontage, and keyage. They were, of old, collected at the seven principal gates at both sides, and on the river, but latterly, the collection on the Meath side was removed to the bridge, while on the Louth side, toll boards were maintained at the chief entrances, at the bridge, and at the principal landing place. By the Act of the 57 Geo. III. c. 108, for the regulation of tolls in Ireland, it was directed, that boards, specifying the customs, tolls, or duties, payable on articles sold at any fair or market, or on landing same at any port, should be erected, during the continuance of such fair or market, in some conspicuous place, at each principal entrance, and at the principal landing place or quay of each port, and the exaction of

other customs, tolls, and duties, than those so specified, is declared illegal.

These tolls were, in Drogheda, as follows :

For every pound of ginger for sale . one halfpenny.

For every pound of saffron . . . one penny.

For every pound of pepper . . . one farthing.

For every pound of nutgalls . . . one halfpenny.

For every pound of cloves . . . one penny.

For every pound of mace, quibbibus
(cubeb), and grains of paradise
(cardamum) . . . one halfpenny.

[A pound, in these, and subsequent items, means twelve ounces, or twenty-five shillings' weight of old coinage].

For all other kinds of spice, of the
value of twelve pence . . . one farthing.

For every hundred pounds weight
of wax . . . four pence.

[The hundred weight here, and hereinafter referred to, comprised thirteen stones and a half, at eight pounds to each stone].

For every hundred pounds weight
of almonds and rice . . . two pence.

For every frail (basket) of figs and
raisins . . . one halfpenny.

For every hundred pounds of alum . two pence.

For every twelve pounds' weight of
onion seed . . . one penny.

For every pound of silk	one penny.
For every head (sixteen ells) of fine linen	one penny.
For every hundred ells of canvass .	two pence.
For every bott (a long narrow piece) of Eylsham	one halfpenny.
For every piece of karde (wool pre- pared for spinning)	one penny.
For every caddow (blanket), or other cover of a bed	one halfpenny.
For every twelve felt hats . . .	one halfpenny.
For every piece of flage (flax cloth)	one penny.
For every piece of entire English cloth.	four pence.
For every twelve ells of English cloth.	two pence.
For every piece of Irish cloth con- taining twelve ells	one penny.
For every piece of Irish linen cloth containing twelve ells	one halfpenny.
For every hundred pieces (pounds) of iron	one penny.
For every bend of pieces (bundle of rods) of iron	one penny.
For every horse load of slabbs (out- side sappy planks of timber) .	one penny.
For every hundred stones of Spanish iron	four pence.
For every lynch of tin	one penny.
For every foot mell of lead . . .	one halfpenny.

- [The weight of a foot mell was
six stones *minus* two pounds].
- For every hundred pounds weight
of sroff (seruse) one penny.
- For all kinds of avoirdupois, value
twelve pence one farthing.
- For every thousand nails of spikings
(spike-nails) one penny.
- For every twelve shares (plough-
shares) one penny.
- For every frail of battray (kitchen
utensils) four pence.
- For every large caldron (kettle) one penny.
- For every saddle worth five shil-
lings one halfpenny.
- For every ton (252 gallons) of wine four pence.
- For every pipe (126 gallons) of
wine two pence.
- For every crannock of common or
superior malt one penny.
- For every crannock of corn one halfpenny.
- [This ancient measure contained
four Winchester bushels, or
sixteen pecks].
- For every cask of butter four pence.
- For every horse load of butter one penny.
- For every stone of onions three farthings.
- For every barrel of herrings four pence.
- [Each barrel should be capable
of containing thirty-two gal-
lons, and be fully packed].

For every mease of herrings (500) .	one halfpenny.
For every crannock of salt . . .	one penny.
For every crannock of barley, beans, and peas	one penny.
For every crannock of the meal of oats and grain	one penny.
For every last of butter (twelve bar- rels)	one penny.
For every quantity of cheese and butter, value twelve pence . .	one farthing.
For every sack (twenty-six stones) of wool	four pence.
For every stone (fourteen pounds) of wool	one penny.
For every hide, tanned, green, and salt	one halfpenny.
For any skin value twelve pence .	one farthing.
For every hundred of skins of shor- lings (sheep that had been shorn alive)	one halfpenny.
For every hundred fleeces . . .	one halfpenny.
For every hundred skins of wool- fells (sheepskins)	twopence.
For every hundred lambskins . .	one penny.
For every hundred coney skins . .	one penny.
For other skins valued twelve pence.	one farthing.
For every horse value 40s., and up- wards	twopence.
For every mule, horse, bull, ox, or heifer	one penny.

For every calf	one farthing.
For every pig, sheep, and goat . .	one farthing.
For every horse load of fish . . .	one halfpenny.
For every hundred (160) dry fish .	one penny.
For every salmon	one farthing.
For every thousand ells and moor- lings (skins of sheep shorn after death)	one penny.
For every kind of timber, likewise two-horse cart, or cars, and boards, value twelve pence . .	one halfpenny.
For every kind of merchandize not here mentioned, value two shil- lings	one halfpenny.

These tolls were levied on farm produce coming in to the proprietors, even where they resided in the town, unless such proprietors had the exemption of freemen, and were levied on goods stored for sale, but not on those stored *in transitu*.

The ancient properties of this Corporation, in lands, houses, tithes, tolls, customs, and duties, have been detailed in the charter of William the Third. They have subsequently acquired some, but not considerable property. The landed estates comprise altogether 2032 acres, independently of houses and tenements in the town of Drogheda. Of these, 1822A. 0R. 38P. are applicable to general corporate purposes, 16 are the Aldermen's acres, 154A. 2R. 13P. are commons land, and 40 acres belong to the poor of St. John's. The terms, for which the Corporation

used to grant leases, were for 999, 99, and 61 years, at the discretion of the Assembly, up to 1796, when it was resolved, "that in future, all lands, the property of this Corporation, be set for a term of 99 years, and one-half of the rent fined down at twenty years' purchase, and that houses and building ground in this town and suburbs, be set for 99 years, and one-half of the rent fined down at ten years' purchase ;" since which period, leases have been (with three exceptions for public purposes) granted for 99 years, but that part of the resolution, respecting the fining down of the rent, has been subsequently varied. The lettings of the commons, and of the estate appropriated to the poor of St. John's, have been subject to other regulations ; renewals not being made of the leases thereof, but on their expiration the lands are set up to auction, and, as the rents are applied to charitable purposes, the bidding is not confined to any particular class of persons, and the highest solvent bidder obtains a lease for sixty-one years, on payment of a fine equal to two years' rent. The lettings made of the estate of the poor of St. John's, have been conducted in a similar manner to those of the commons, except that in some instances, leases are made for 99 years, and to commence *in futuro*, which is said to be done with a view, as far as possible, to prevent dilapidations to houses. The Corporation do not now possess any beneficial property in tithes, having, as before mentioned, assigned their only property of this nature, the tithes of Innismott, for

the support of the chapel of ease in this town ; but it may be here mentioned, that they claimed the exclusive right of fishery in the river Boyne, from the western boundary of the county of the town, about half a mile above the bridge, to the Maiden tower, at the bar of the mouth of the river. A counter right has been feebly asserted, but the public have enjoyed an uninterrupted use of this fishery for a great many years, by license, as it is alleged, of the Corporation, with a view to benefit the town ; but the right of that body in the part of the river above the bridge, has been disputed by the proprietor in fee of the land at the opposite side, and is questioned also by those below the bridge.

By the recent Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108, ss. 140, 141, and 142, Corporations are not permitted in future, in ordinary cases, to make leases of the corporate property for any term exceeding thirty-one years, and in making such leases, a reasonable rent is to be reserved to the Corporation, and no fine to be taken ; building leases, however, may be made for terms of seventy-five years. And if the council, or governing body, be desirous of selling any property, or leasing it for longer terms, it may apply to the treasury, and, on public notice of such application being given, said council, with the approbation of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, may make such disposition. So also in cases where contracts have been *bonâ fide* made with individuals by the Corporation, previous to the 20th of August, 1836,

for the sale of any part of the lands of the Corporation, or for the letting of any part of it, for longer terms than those above specified, such contracts may be executed.

Several of the charters above mentioned, granted cognizance of pleas, &c., to the Corporation, but they have not, for a long time, exercised any jurisdiction, either in criminal or civil cases, except what resulted from the town being constituted a county in itself, and now, all capital jurisdictions, and all other criminal jurisdictions, in boroughs, other than are specified in the recent Municipal Corporation Act, have been abolished. The Courts hitherto held (with others, which are now only permitted to be continued within this town, if sought so to be renewed by the new Corporation) are,

1st. The Assizes before the Mayor and Judges of Assize on the North-Eastern Circuit, at the usual periods.

2nd. The Quarter Sessions, before the Barrister of Louth, in every quarter of the year.

3rd. The Petty Sessions held generally once a fortnight before the magistrates in the Tholsel.

4th. The Court of Conscience has jurisdiction in small debts between party and party, under 23 shillings, and is held before the Mayor or his Deputy, generally on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

5th. The Escheator's Court, occasionally held, as necessary, and established in consequence of a vote of the Assembly in 1657, for the security of the Corporation lands.

6th. The Court of Pie Poudre held before the Mayor at the Tholsel, on the fair days granted by charter to the Corporation. Its object is the enforcing of all contracts entered into between parties at the fairs.

7th. The Court of Revision, recently established for registry of burgesses, to be held henceforth before the Mayor and the two Assessors of the borough, between the 1st and 15th of October, annually.

The valuation of the county of the town of Drogheda, by Mr. Griffith's Survey, was as follows :

	LAND.			HOUSES.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Parish of St. Peter,	5439	11	2	11,509	2	0
Parish of St. Mary,	2569	17	10	1,995	4	0
Townland of Ballymakenny,	752	9	4	38	0	0
	£8761	18	4 . . .	£13,542	6	0
Total lands,				8,761	18	4
Total lands and houses in the county,				£22,304	4	4

The local taxation accordingly comprised the following items on the latest calculation of assessment.

1st. Lamp cess, $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ in the pound half-yearly in St. Mary's parish, and $4d.$ in St. Peter's, while the Corporation gave £20 yearly, in aid of the object, amounting in the total to about £400 *per ann.* This tax the future Council of the Corporation will have power, by the 3 & 4 Vict, c. 108, to modify, and to assume

the authority of Commissioners under 9 Geo. IV. c. 82, so far, and to levy rates for lighting, in the same manner as borough rate is levied.

2nd. Minister's money, only charged in St. Peter's parish, amounts at present to £246 12s. 6d.

3rd. County cess has been applotted at from 3s. 8d. to 3s. 11d. half-yearly per acre; the objects of this tax are the repairs of the roads outside the ancient walls, as well as of the bridge, quay walls, and gaol, and the salaries of the county officers. This rate, having been thrown upon the agricultural part of this district, while the houses of the town remained unassessed, has been a source of constant and protracted controversy. Its amount in 1842 was stated as £1250 in St. Peter's parish, £640 in St. Mary's, and £110 in Ballymakenny, while the amount of the presentments for the preceding year, for repairs of road, prison, and bridewell expenses, salaries, police establishment, and salaries of county officers, was returned to Parliament as £1536 16s. 6d. The grounds of complaint, however, in reference to this tax are likely to be removed by the operation of the late Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 32.

4th. Hospital cess, to which the Corporation, as before mentioned, contributed £50 annually, while the remainder is levied by an applotment of about 8d. per acre, on St. Mary's parish, 2½d. in Ballymakenny, and 2½d. in the pound of Ministers' money in St. Peter's parish.

5th. Parish cess, principally for the support of a fire engine, and to provide a salary for the engine keeper, and a fund for deserted children.

6th. Poor rate.

7th. Cholera cess, which in 1842 amounted to £250 on houses, and £80 on lands, but is now of course decreasing.

Watch tax, formerly levied here to the amount of about £350 *per annum*, was abolished by the present Corporation.

The general boundary of this Corporation is, for the purposes of the Act (3 & 4 Vict. c. 108), traced from the point called Liberty Bridge, near Greenhills, on the left bank of the Boyne, where a small stream enters the river in an easterly direction, up Cord-lane to the south-east corner of the burial ground, thence northerly along the east boundary wall of the burial-ground, up the lane to Scarlet-lane, thence to the north-west corner of the gaol wall, thence in a straight line to the north-east corner of the gaol wall, thence in a straight line to the north-east corner of Harman's garden wall, thence southerly round the garden wall to the south-west corner; thence in a straight line to the cross roads at the top of Windmill-lane; thence to the north road to the point where the Parliamentary boundary crosses it, thence in a straight line along the Parliamentary boundary to the south-west corner of Laburnum Nursery, being about three hundred yards, thence in a straight line

to the junction of Mill-lane and Collon road, thence in a straight line to low water mark left bank of the river, thence diagonally across the river, down the stream to a sluice, where a small stream enters the river, and the Parliamentary boundary crosses, thence to the south end of Mr. Ball's house, Ball's-grove; thence to the junction of a lane coming from the south, with the road to Navan and the Black Lion, near a stone quarry, and about 250 yards south of the river; thence in a straight line to Levins's-bridge; thence, keeping the course of the brook westerly to Cooley-bridge; thence in a straight line to the south-east angle of the boundary wall of St. Mary's churchyard, being part of the old town walls; thence in a straight line to the Dublin road, at the point of junction with a lane running north from Cromwell's mount; thence in a straight line to the east end of Mr. Weir's new house on the road to Mornington, and thence across the river to the point first described.

To be divided into three wards according to the following boundaries, and in every such ward there shall be two Aldermen and six Councillors.

No. 1. *West Gate Ward*.—Commencing at the borough boundary on the north road, and thence in a south-easterly direction down the centre of the north road, to its intersection with Fair-street; thence easterly down Fair-street to its intersection with Schole's-lane; thence southerly down Schole's-lane to its intersection with West-street; thence easterly

down West-street, to its intersection with Shop-street; thence southerly down Shop-street, over the bridge, up the Bull-ring to its intersection with Barrack-lane; thence south-westerly up Barrack-lane, past the Barracks to its intersection with Duleek-street; thence up Duleek-street to the borough boundary at Cooley-bridge; thence westerly round the borough boundary, across the river, along the boundary to the point first named. The whole of the area within this line to form West Gate Ward.

No. 2. *Fair Gate Ward*.—Commencing at the Borough boundary on the North road as before, and coming in a south-easterly direction down the centre of the North road, to its intersection with Fair-street; thence easterly down Fair-street to its intersection with Schole's-lane; thence southerly down Schole's-lane to its intersection with West-street; thence easterly down West-street to its intersection with Peter-street; thence northerly up Peter-street to where it meets the ends of William-street and Fair-street; thence easterly down William-street to its intersection with Palace-street; thence northerly up Palace-street to its intersection with Scarlet-lane; thence easterly down Scarlet-lane to the Borough boundary; thence westerly round the Borough boundary to the point first named on the North road. The whole of the area within this line to form Fair Gate Ward.

No. 3. *St. Lawrence Gate Ward*.—Commencing at the west end of St. Lawrence-street, where that

street, Peter-street, and Shop-street all meet; thence northerly up Peter-street, till it meets the ends of Fair-street and William-street; thence easterly down William-street to its intersection with Palace-street; thence northerly up Palace-street to its intersection with Scarlet-lane; thence easterly down Scarlet-lane to the Borough boundary; thence southerly along the Borough boundary, crossing the river, and continuing along the boundary to Cooley Bridge; thence northerly down Duleek-street, along the east boundary of West Gate Ward, to the intersection of Shop-street, Peter-street, and Lawrence-street, being the point first named. The whole of the area within this line to form Saint Lawrence Gate Ward.

This Act does not, however, affect the ancient boundaries of the county of the town, or the extent of the jurisdictions theretofore exercised in relation thereto, nor the limits prescribed for the purposes of parliamentary representation, which, in this borough, are conterminous with the county of the town, and include in a far wider range than the above, the commons and the townlands of Ballsgrove, Black-Bush, Bryanstown, Legadoren, Moneymore, Killineer, Barnatty, Townrath, Landsharrah, Lis-corry, Yellow Batter, Green Batter, Bailey's Park, Listoke, Carntown, and a portion of Ballymakenny. These boundaries, the Mayor with the Town Clerk is by the 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108, s. 24, expressly directed to perambulate within six months after every suc-

cessive period of three years. It is to be observed, however, that the Reform Act, 2 & 3 Will. IV. c. 88, by disqualifying the freemen who did not reside within seven miles of the town, and by extending the elective franchise to the £10 householders, and the £20 and £10 leaseholders, for the respective terms of fourteen and twenty years, has adjusted the constituency, according to the latest return, to 651.

The recent Act for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations has so far altered the constitution of this ancient body, as to limit its governing body, or Council, to six Aldermen and eighteen Town Councillors. The Burgesses are to elect the Aldermen and Councillors, and these are to choose one of their number to be Mayor. The appointment of the Recorder is vested in the Lord Lieutenant, as is also that of the Sheriff, the Clerks of the Peace and of the Crown; that of the Town Clerk and Coroner in the Council. The right to freedom by birth, marriage, or servitude, is reserved as heretofore; but freedom by gift or purchase is abolished, while the mode of admitting Burgesses, their qualifications, and enrolments, are especially prescribed by this Statute, as is the appointment of two Borough Auditors and two Borough Assessors, by the Burgesses of the whole borough; and of Ward Assessors by the Burgesses of each ward. The Mayor is to be henceforth the returning officer at elections of Members to serve in Parliament; and every person, henceforth elected Mayor, Alderman, Council-

lor, Auditor, or Assessor, shall accept such office, or pay a fine to the borough fund, &c. &c. &c. The municipal books and documents in the custody of the Town Clerk of Drogheda are three volumes of the Acts of the General and other Assemblies of this Corporation, from 1649 to the present day, containing entries of their ordinary business, the admissions of freemen, elections and qualifications of Mayors and other officers, fiats for leases, auditing of accounts, &c.; the White Parchment Book, containing entries of agreements, concordatums, proceedings of Assemblies, abstracts of leases granted by the Corporation, with descriptions of the premises demised, and a summary of the terms of the deeds. He has also the charge of the several charters of the body; the Red Book, containing a list of the freemen admitted since the Revolution; and the several Election Poll Books. The Assembly proceedings and other municipal documents preceding Cromwell's time, perished in the mayoralty-house of his day, which stood in Lawrence-street, at the corner of Keysar's-lane, and was destroyed during the siege. A great many valuable books of the Corporation were also kindled for fuel in 1798, by yeomanry on guard in the Tholsel.

The succession of the Parliamentary Representatives of Drogheda has been as follows :

1360. (To a Great Council), six members, names unknown.

1371. (To a Great Council), { William Roche, Nicholas FitzHugh,
Wm. Symcock, Thomas Ashe,
Richard Mile, John Ashwell.

R 2

1374. (To a Parliament at Westminster), Roger Gernon and Richard de Verdon.

1559. John Weston, of Drogheda, and Robert Burnell.

1585. John Barnewall, of Bremore, and Peter Nugent.

[Four other members of the Barnewall family sat in this Parliament—Lord Trimleston as a peer; Sir Patrick Barnewall of Crickstown, Robert Barnewall for Ardee, and Richard Barnewall as one of the Representatives of the county of Meath.]

1613. Alderman John Blackney and Roger Bellings, of Killossory.

1634. Alderman Thomas Peppard and Richard Brice.

1639. Alderman Thomas Peppard and Richard Brice, Esq.

1640. October. Alderman John Stanley, *vice* Peppard deceased.

1642. July. Sir Thomas Lucas, Knight, *vice* Stanley "expelled for the rebellion."

[Sir Thomas Lucas here named, had long commanded a troop of horse in the Low Countries. He was a Commissary-General during the wars of 1641, and an active member of the Council of war during the siege. He afterwards did signal service under the Earl of Ormonde, in that nobleman's expedition to relieve the places of strength besieged by the Irishry. He was one of the seven commissioners whom the unfortunate Charles the First, when hoping to compose the dissensions of Ireland and derive some assistance to his cause from that kingdom, deputed under the great seal of England, to meet the Recusants, and receive and transmit their propositions. In 1646, as a member of the Privy Council at Dublin Castle, he signed the ordinance of peace, but was afterwards, on the occasion of Jones's capture of Drogheda, taken prisoner.]

1642. November. Worsley Barton, of Drogheda, *vice* Brice expelled for non-attendance.

1661. Moyses Hill of Hillsborough and William Toxteth, of Drogheda.

1692. Charles Lord Moore and Edward Singleton.

1695. Charles Lord Moore and Edward Singleton.

1703. Ditto, ditto.

1710. Alderman Graham, *vice* Singleton deceased.

1713. Henry Singleton, of Drogheda, and Alderman Graham.

1715. Ditto, ditto.

1717. September. John Leigh, of Drogheda, *vice* Graham deceased.

[A petition was presented against his return, but pending the inquiry he was expelled for disaffection to the House of Hanover.]

1717. November. Edward Singleton, of Drogheda, *vice* Leigh expelled.

1727. Henry Singleton, of Drogheda, and William Graham, of Platten.

1741. Francis Leigh, of Drogheda, *vice* Singleton, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

1749. John Graham, of Platten, *vice* William Graham deceased.

1761. Francis Leigh, of Drogheda, and John Graham, of Platten.

1768. Francis Leigh, of Drogheda, and William Meade, of Drogheda.

[A petition was also presented against this election, but it was ultimately rejected.]

1773. Francis Leigh and William Meade Ogle.

1776. William Meade Ogle and Sydenham Singleton.

1783. William Meade Ogle and John Forbes.

1785. Henry Meade Ogle and John Forbes.

1790. William Meade Ogle and John Forbes.

1796. William Meade Ogle and John Ball, *vice* John Forbes, who accepted a place of profit under the Crown.

1798. John Ball and Edward Hardman,

[A petition was presented against Mr. Hardman's election, and he was declared not duly returned; he was, however, immediately afterwards re-elected, and so continued jointly with Mr. Ball, the representatives of this borough to the time of the Union, the passing of which measure they both strenuously opposed.]

Drogheda subsequently returned but one Member, in the following succession :

- 1802. Edward Hardman.
- 1807. Right Honourable T. H. Foster.
- 1812. Henry Meade Ogle.
- 1818. Ditto, ditto.
- 1820. Ditto, ditto.
- 1822. William Meade Smythe.
- 1826. Peter Van Homrigh.
- 1830. John Henry North.
- 1831. Ditto, ditto.
- 1833. Andrew Carew O'Dwyer.
- 1836. Honourable Randle E. Plunkett.
- 1838. Sir William Meredyth Somerville, Baronet (the sitting Member.)

LIEUTENANT.

The Right Honourable Sir Patrick Bellew, Baronet, of Barmeath, who is also Lieutenant of the county of Louth.

The succession of the Mayors, Bailiffs, and Sheriffs of Drogheda, according to the years of their election, has been as follows (as far as ascertained) :

MAYORS.

BAILIFFS.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1285. Hugo Moyne. | |
| 1319. Robert Bryan. | |
| 1330. William de Roche. | |
| 1337. Ditto, ditto. | |
| 1345. Richard Fitz William. | |
| 1346. William Roche . . . | William Rice and John Ardagh. |
| 1356. ——— de Bathe. | |
| 1368. William Roche, Junior. | |
| 1375. William Roche . . . | Alan Fitz Simon and John Cope-
land. |
| 1377. Walter Mills . . . | John Bocher and John Messing-
ham. |

MAYORS.

BAILIFFS.

1380. Richard Mole Adam Passevant and Stephen
Marshall.

1389. William Roche.

1394. Nicholas Faunt John Rede and Robert Bragan.

1397. William Roche Robert Mole and Robert Fays-
ton.

1398. Walter Taaffe William Stokes and William
Style Ball.

1399. William White.

1401. John White Thomas Walton and John Sym-
cock.

1405. Richard White Simon Reade and John Olton.

1406. Richard White Nicholas White.

SHERIFFS.

1412. William Symcock (first
chartered Mayor of the
united Corporations).

1413. Nicholas Finglas.

1418. Thomas Walsh Peter Merburgh and William
English.

1447. Robert Talbot Ralph Coll and James Fitz-
Rory.

1453. Richard Hill.

1454. Thomas Snatchberd.

1456. Richard Hill.

1467. James Fowling Nicholas Hardman and William
Davy.

1468. Richard Gernon.

1471. John Fowling.

1506. John Wyrall.

1512. John Barnewall.

1520. Thomas White.

1524. Thomas Delahoyde.

1539. Michael Coursy.

1541. John Duffe.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1554. George Elcock.

1555. Thomas Kelly.

1566. George Elcock.

1568. John Elcock.

1569. Robert Burnell . . . Nicholas Coursy and Robert
Fleming Fitz-John.1570. Thomas Peppard . . . Patrick Fleming and Adam
Travers.

1577. Nicholas Bathe.

1578. Philip Dowdall.

1581. Patrick Dowdall.

1582. George Duff . . . Robert Whelan and Michael
Cowley.

1583. James Wotton.

1589. William Brett.

1592. Nicholas Elcock.

1600. Thomas Fleming.

1605. Stephen Duff.

1607. Nicholas Elcock.

1609. Patrick Laundry(who pos-
sibly gave his name to
Laundry's Castle, see
ante, p. 101).

1610. Christopher Worrall.

1622. Richard Byrne.

1623. Thomas Nugent.

1624. Henry Franklin . . . Christopher Ledwich.

1626. Thomas Oxford.

1627. Henry Franklin.

1635. Henry Franklin.

1636. James Bolton.

1644. John Jebb.

1645. George Gregory.

1649. William Elwood . . . Samuel Stanbridge and Patrick
Travers.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1650. William Toxteth.	
1652. Samuel Stanbridge . . .	Major John Towers and Richard Jackson.
1654.	Nicholas Phelps.
1655.	Ditto.
1656. Samuel Stanbridge . . .	Nicholas Phelps and Jonas Elwood.
1657. Thomas Dixon	Gabriel Meade and Francis Poole.
1658. Thomas Stubber . . .	Edward Nicholls and Joseph Wharton.
1659. Richard Edmonds (displaced for neglect of duty), Edward Martin.	Ferdinando Ross and Richard Jackson.
1660. Edward Martin	Thomas Leigh and John Tempest.
1661. James Elwood	Richard Orson and John Hardwit.
1662. John Greene	John Stoker and Thomas Newton.
1663. John Metcalfe.	
1664. John Towers	Robert Ford and George Richardson.
1665. Ditto.	
1667. Gabriel Meade.	
1671. Sir James Graham . . .	Jerome Cheevers and John Carter.
1672. Sir William Tichburne.	Richard Jackson and Richard Bloomfield.
1673. E. Nicholls	Richard Lloyd and Henry Watkins.
1674. Thomas Newton	John Sandiford and William Barron.
1675. George Richardson . . .	Thomas Percival and John Barry.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1676. Edward Singleton . . . John Osborne and Gerard Banks.
1677. John Tomlinson . . . William Elwood and Thomas Newton.
1678. Richard Jackson . . . James Van Bobbert and Robert Hardman.
1679. John Sandiford . . . Henry Nicholls and Paul Eaton.
1680. Thomas Percival . . . William Forde and Richard Griffiths.
1681. John Osborne . . . William Stoker and E. Cheshire.
1682. William Elwood . . . Thomas Shepherd, Patt. Mullady, Richard Griffith, *vice* Mullady, deceased.
1683. Henry Nicholls . . . John Siddalt and Gilbert Lucas.
1684. William Barron . . . Christopher Isaac and James Fairbrother.
1685. John Sandiford . . . John Good and John Curtis.
1686. James Van Bobbert . . . William Newton and Richard Rathbourne.
1687. George Richardson . . . John Orson and Henry Ogle.
1688. Ignatius Peppard . . . Christopher Dowdall and James Kershaw.

(Under James the Second's Charter).

1690. William Elwood . . . Robert Harrison and Henry Ogle.
1691. Thomas Newton . . . Joseph George and John Friend.
1692. Richard Pitts . . . James Meade and John Shore.
1693. John Graham . . . George Harman and Edward Chesshire.
1694. Sir Henry Tichburne . . . _____ and William Norman.
1695. Joseph Tomlinson . . . Richard Heywood and John Slater.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1696. William Newton . . .	William Greene and John Langley.
1697. James Meade . . .	Richard Greene and Gregory Warde.
1698. Henry Ogle . . .	John Percival and Richard Smith.
1699. George Hardman . . .	Henry Meade and Edward Forbes.
1700. John Leigh . . .	John Shepheard and John Cope.
1701. Henry Meade . . .	Thomas Stoker and George Blacker.
1702. Richard Smith . . .	William Norman, junior, and Richard Saunders.
1703. Thomas Stoker . . .	Henry Smith and Gerrard Ranger.
1704. John Shore . . .	William Patten and Henry Singleton.
1705. John Cope . . .	Adam St. Loe and Michael Smith.
1706. Ditto . . .	John Byrne and John Johnston.
1707. Henry Meade . . .	Edward Singleton and Joseph Dobbs.
1708. William Patten . . .	Thomas Sandiford and Oliver Fairtlough.
1709. William Norman . . .	Nathaniel Hornsey and Abraham Watson.
1710. John Johnston . . .	John Barron and Thomas Gerard.
1711. Edmund Singleton . . .	Christopher Isaac and John Sankitt.
1712. Timothy Armitage . . .	Peter Gaynor and William Barron.
1713. Henry Smith . . .	Edmund Schoales and Charles Byrne.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1714. John Byrne	Oliver Fairtlough and John Rencher.
1715. John Shepheard . . .	John Rencher and John Cooke.
1716. George Blacker . . .	John Gilbert and Henry Hawkins.
1717. Thomas Sandiford . .	John Haden and William Lucas.
1718. Edmund Scholes . . .	Thomas Norman and John Ross.
1719. John Gilbert	Abraham Eastwood and Edward Knight.
1720. Charles Byrne	John Godfrey and Edward Credon.
1721. Thomas Gerrard . . .	Philip Newitt and Edward Jones.
1722. Oliver Fairtlough . .	Thomas Gore and James Domville.
1723. John Sankitt	John Leland and Richard Evans.
1724. John Rencher	William Gartside and Samuel Pendleton.
1725. John Godfrey	Thomas Barton and William Pickering.
1726. William Lucas	Henry Ackland and John Hughes.
1727. John Haden	James Schoales and Robert Elliot.
1728. Samuel Pendleton . .	Edward Hardman and Henry Ogle.
— Abraham Wilson, <i>vice</i> Pendleton, deceased.	
1729. Henry Ogle	Francis Leigh and William Ogle.
1730. Edward Hardman . . .	Robert Forde and Abraham Norman.
1731. William Exham	Edward Meade and Francis Donagh.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1732. Francis Leigh	James Seaton and John Broughton.
1733. Edward Leigh	William Shepherd and Thomas Wye.
1734. William Ogle	James Barlow and Jonathan Nicholls.
1735. John Broughton	William Fuller and Thomas Browne.
1736. Henry Ackland	Henry Shiels and Richard Jebb.
1737. William Shepherd . . .	William Graham and Edward Chesshire.
1738. James Barlow	Oliver Fairtlough and George Elliot.
1739. Thomas Wye	John Blacker and George Rencher.
1740. Jonathan Nicholls . . .	William Skelly and Hugh Weldon.
1741. Townley Patten	George Schoales and Anthony Bury.
1742. John Graham	Edward Norman and John Woods.
1743. Henry Shiels	Charles Sellery and James Sandiford.
1744. William Graves	Gilbert Austin and William Humphreyen.
1745. Robert Ford	John Leland and John Jebb.
1746. George Rencher	William Rencher and John Chamney.
1747. George Schoales	William Busteed and George Hodder.
1748. Edward Chesshire . . .	William Fairtlough and Henry Leland.
1749. Richard Jebb	William Howard and Samuel Gerrard.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1750. Oliver Fairtlough . . .	Jeremiah Smith and Philip Pendleton.
1751. Francis Donagh . . .	John Graham and John Aberley.
1752. John Graham, Junior . .	John Clarke and George Ackland.
1753. Jeremiah Smith . . .	Robert Ford and George Foster.
1754. Philip Pendleton . . .	George Williams and George Clegg.
1755. William Howard . . .	William Blakeney and Thomas Jones.
1756. Henry Gartside . . .	Roger Ford and William Sweetlove.
1757. George Ackland . . .	John Ogle and William Ogle.
1758. William Fairtlough . .	William Norman and Samuel Taylor.
1759. Edward Norman . . .	William Holmes and Charles Evans.
1760. John Ogle	Sydenham Singleton and Robert Holmes.
1761. Edward Chesshire, Junr. .	John Marshall and John Hadthorn.
1762. William Ogle, Junior . .	Harry Brabazon and Hamilton Bury.
1763. Roger Ford	Oliver Fairtlough and Abraham Knight.
1764. John Jebb	Henry Ackland and William Gibbons.
1765. John Ogle	Edward Harman, Junior, and John Fairtlough.
1766. Robert Ball	James Ford and John Ackland.
1767. John Marshall	Anthony Marshall and John Graham, Junior.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1768. Edward Harman . . .	Philip Donagh and Oliver Fairtlough.
1769. Henry Leland . . .	Robert Wynne and Austin Martin.
1770. William Norman . . .	John Donagh, junior, and Thomas Wynne.
1771. James Forde . . .	William Coddington and Thomas Elliott.
1772. Anthony Marshall . .	Henry Stewart and Henry Coddington.
1773. Philip Donagh . . .	William Adams and Thomas Turner.
1774. Alderman Fairtlough .	Anthony Sellery and — Tongue.
1775. William Coddington . .	Hugh Montgomery Lyons and John Jones.
1776. William Holmes . . .	Theobald Bourke and George Evans.
1777. Oliver Fairtlough . .	William Jocelyn Shaw and Launcelot Dowdal.
1778. Hugh Montgomery Lyons.	John Van Homrigh and William Chesshire.
1779. William Gibbons . . .	Henry Smith and Thomas Chamney.
1780. John Ackland . . .	Edward Chesshire and Maurice Barlow.
1781. John Jones . . .	George Armstrong and Robert Taylor.
1782. William Chesshire . .	William Fairtlough and Samuel Martin.
1783. John Van Homrigh . .	Hamden Nicholson and James Scholes.
1784. Henry Smith . . .	Robert Pollock and Burton Tandy.
1785. Edward Chesshire . .	William O'Doherty and Graves Chamney.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1786. George Armstrong' . . .	Joseph Holmes and Ralph Smith.
1787. Maurice Barlow . . .	George M'Entagart and Charles Evans.
1788. Sir William O'Doherty .	John Ball and Thomas Norman.
1789. Graves Chamney . . .	Thomas Owens and Edward Fairtlough.
1790. Joseph Holmes . . .	John Leland and Wallop Brabazon.
1791. William Fairtlough . .	Bartholomew Van Homrigh and Francis G. Fairtlough.
1792. James Schoales . . .	Francis Elliot and John Sheekleton.
1793. Ralph Smyth . . .	Lawrence Steele and John Jones.
1794. Ralph Smyth . . .	William Jones and Launcelot Fisher.
1795. George Evans . . .	George Tandy and H. Brabazon, junior.
1796. William Jones . . .	Townly Harman and Ninian Rodger.
1797. Anthony Sillery . . .	Richard Jebb and Michael Metcalf.
1798. Bartholomew P. Van Homrigh	Beaver Van Homrigh and John Tandy.
1799. George M'Intaggart . .	Henry Pentland and William Fairtlough.
1800. Burton Tandy . . .	George Metcalf and John Cooper.
1801. Edward Fairtlough . .	James Green, M.D., and George Pentland.
1802. James Metcalfe . . .	Richard Siddall and William Knipe.

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

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|---|---|
| 1803. George M'Intaggart . . | Leonard Crooke and James Mayne. |
| 1804. Henry Meade Ogle . . | Henry Metcalfe and George Moore. |
| 1805. Townley Blackwood Har-
man | Edward Gibbons and John Taylor. |
| 1806. John Leland | Jeremiah Smith and Samuel Forster. |
| 1807. Charles Evans | Samuel Batt and Thomas Martin. |
| 1808. Henry Metcalfe | Charles Ball and Ralph Smith, junior. |
| 1809. Henry Pentland | Henry Ackland and Lathom Fairtlough. |
| 1810. Edward Hale Gibbons . | St. George Smyth and George M'Intaggart. |
| 1811. Peter Van Homrigh . . | George Hemsell and G. W. Evans. |
| 1812. Ralph Smyth, junior . . | Andrew Armstrong and Richardson Williams. |
| 1813. Samuel Forster | William Wynne and James Davis. |
| 1814. St. George Smyth . . . | Burton Tandy and Matt. Codd. |
| 1815. George Pentland | Joseph Holmes and William Huey. |
| 1816. Right Honourable Thomas Henry Skeffington . . | John Ball and Lathom Blacker. |
| 1817. Francis Graham Fairtlough | Samuel Fairtlough and Robert Thompson. |
| 1818. Blaney Townley Balfour. | William Fairtlough and Jeremiah Gibbons. |
| 1819. Charles Ball | H. B. Fairtlough and Robert Pentland. |

MAYORS.

SHERIFFS.

1820. Lathom Fairtlough . .	Robert Pentland and Francis Ball.
1821. Joseph Holmes . . .	John Ackland and William Brabazon.
1822. William Fairtlough . .	Graves Ackland and Francis Anderson.
1823. George Hemsell . . .	Francis Donagh and Richardson W. Huey.
1824. Robert Pentland . . .	Francis W. Leland and William B. Fairtlough.
1825. W. Oliver Fairtlough .	John Chesshire and George Henry Pentland.
1826. Francis Donagh . . .	Edward Fairtlough and Charles Evans.
1827. William Huey	John Shegog and James Green, junior.
1828. G. W. Evans . , . .	Henry Smith and Thomas North.
1829. Henry B. Fairtlough. .	James Wisdom and William Murray.
1830. John Ackland	Bartholomew Van Homrigh and Edward Roe.
1831. Francis Anderson. . .	Edward Atkinson and Robert Ball.
1832. Graves Ackland . . .	Francis Fairtlough and G. R. Clarke.
1833. John Chesshire . . .	George Murphy and John Fairtlough.
1834. John Cooper	Thomas Grendon and George Harpur.
1835. G. H. Pentland . . .	William Cairnes and Patrick Darbey.
1836. Robert Pentland, M. D.,	W. H. Shegog and James Medlicott.
1837. Henry Smith	Thomas Fogarty and William Rodger.

MAYORS.

1838. Thomas North Ralph Smith and Thomas Brodigan.
 1839. John Shegog St. George Smith, junior, and Frederick William Fogarty.
 1840. Robert Ball Hackett . . Alfred Cowdroy and John Cooper.
 1841. Thomas T. Fogarty . . John Crawford and George North.
 1842. Thomas Carty Ralph Smyth.

SHERIFFS.

 The succession of the Recorders of Drogheda:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1520. Christopher Delahoyde. | 1694. Robert Rochfort (promoted to the Chief Baronship of the Exchequer). |
| 1569. William Bathe, of Athcarne. | 1707. Henry Singleton. |
| 1586. John Barnewall. | 1737. Henry Singleton (promoted to the Chief Justice-ship of the Common Pleas.) |
| 1594. Christopher Leyns. | 1742. Henry Smith. |
| 1649. Roger Brereton. | 1762. John Leigh. |
| 1655. Major William Aston. | 1769. Sydenham Singleton. |
| 1663. Thomas Burton. | 1782. John Forbes. |
| 1664. Edward Wallis. | 1797. Peter Van Homrigh. |
| 1684. Mr. Serjeant Osborne. | 1831. Robert Pentland. |
| 1686. William Porter (resigned). | 1832. Francis Ball. |
| 1687. Henry Dowdall, under James the Second. | |
| 1690. Prime Serjeant Osborne. | |

(This office is now in abeyance.)

Illustrious Freemen of this Corporation, appointed since the Revolution:

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|---|---|
| 1693. Lord Viscount Sydney,
Lord Lieutenant. | 1705. Primate Marsh. |
| 1702. Chief Baron Donnellan. | 1712. Arthur Earl of Anglesey. |
| 1704. Duke of Ormond. | 1713. Sir Constantine Phipps,
Lord Chancellor. |

1718. Chief Baron Gilbert.
1719. Rt. Hon. William Conolly.
1725. Lord Carteret, Lord Lieutenant.
Lord Chancellor West.
Lord John Bellew, Baron of Duleek.
1731. Duke of Dorset, Lord Lieutenant.
1733. Hon. Lord George Sackville.
1779. Rt. Hon. Thomas Conolly.
1780. Earl of Buckinghamshire, Lord Lieutenant.
Rt. Hon. Walter Hussey Burgh.
Rt. Hon. James Earl of Charlemont.
1782. Henry Grattan, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Earl of Mornington.
1786. Rt. Hon. John Foster, Speaker.
Duke of Rutland, Lord Lieutenant.
1787. Rt. Hon. Sir John Parnell, Bart.
1789. James Napper Tandy (afterwards disfranchised).
His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales.
1790. Rt. Hon. John Fitzgibbon, Chancellor.
- Rt. Hon. Chief Baron Yelverton.
1792. Rev. Walter Blake Kirwan.
1797. Rt. Rev. Dr. Moylan, R. C. Bishop of Cork.
1807. Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Wellesley.
John Leslie Foster, Esq., M. P.
1812. Rt. Hon. William Wellesley Pole.
1813. Rev. Daniel A. Beaufort, D. D.
Richard B. Warren, Barrister at law.
1814. Rt. Hon. William Saurin.
Charles Kendal Bushe, Esq.
1815. Rt. Hon. Robert Peel.
1818. Earl Talbot, Lord Lieutenant.
John Radcliffe, LL.D., Judge of the Prerogative Court.
1819. Rt. Hon. Charles Grant.
1820. The Most Reverend Dr. Curtis, R. C. Primate.
1827. Rt. Hon. Henry Goulburne.
Rt. Hon. Lord Chancellor Manners.
1828. His Excellency the Marquess of Anglesea.
1830. John Henry North, Esq., M. P.

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